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21 October 1983

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2755

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MORE POLITICAL CONTROVERSY OVER ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Joint Committee

Belize City THE BEACON in English 20 Aug 83 p 10

[Text]

IT has been announced that a joint committee named the "Citizens' September Celebration Committee" has been formed to co-ordinate plans for the celebrations of Belize's Birthday (September 10) and the second anniversary of the country's Independence (September 21).

The seven-man committee will be chaired by Chamber of Commerce President Mr. Elton Jones, and the other six seats are drawn from the traditional Committee of Forty and the rival government sponsored National Day/Independence Day Committee.

The other celebration committee members are Messrs Henry Young, Edward Flowers and Reginald Rodriguez from the Committee of Forty; and Messrs Ralph Fonseca, Edwin Flowers and Winston Smiling from the Independence Day

Committee.

A spokesman for the Committee of Forty has confirmed that the Queen of the Bay Contest will remain under the auspices of that committee.

A release issued this week and signed by committee President Elton Jones says that "in keeping with the theme of unity both committees have agreed to unite efforts ..."

Nobody has taken the trouble to spell out what those efforts will entail; but it remains almost a certainty that Belmopan will not relax its almost total bann on the playing over Radio Belize of 10th September patriotic songs (such as "British Honduras My Country So Dear," "Song of Honduras," "Baymen's Glory," "O Brotherhood of Britons" and "God's Goodness Gave This Land to Me."

Government Reply to Esquivel

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 21 Aug 83 pp 1, 15

[Text]

Last week a section of the local press said Opposition leader Senator Esquivel accused the police of acting "frivolous, malicious and childish against the U.D.P. The Senator also threatened that the UDP would breakaway from the unified 10th and 21st September Celebrations.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs replied to the Senator.

Senator Manuel Esquivel
Leader of the United Democratic Party

Dear Senator,

I acknowledge receipt of your letter dated Aug. 11, 1983. You and your party accuse the Police of acting "Frivolous, malicious and childish."

The Police have now reported the facts to me and I am satisfied that there was nothing "frivolous, childish nor malicious" in enforcing the law regarding public meetings.

All political parties including the ruling People's United Party, are obliged to sign a bond to guarantee the conduct of a peaceful meeting. Your party has always complied but suddenly you have refused to do so.

The Police have quoted their authority under the law at Section 3(2)(c) of Ordinance No. 15 of 1981.

The Police in Belize do their duties without fear or favour, and they are aware that no one is above the law. Your party, like all others, is expected to conduct itself within the laws of Belize.

As regards your threat to break-away from the efforts of the Government to achieve unified celebrations on September 10 and 21, I can only tell you that we are sorry that we cannot put you in a position above the law as the price of a unified celebration. It would appear that you are looking for a pretext to again politicize the celebrations. That responsibility rests with your party.

Since you gave immediate publicity to your letter I am doing likewise.

Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of
Home Affairs.

cc: RT Hon George Price
Hon Said Musa
Mr Edward Flowers,
Chairman, Committee
of 40
Mr Elton Jones, President,
Chamber of Commerce.

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 21 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

It is really hard to understand why the leader of the Opposition Senator Manuel Esquivel, is trying to make politics out of the 10th and 21st September celebrations. It was before his time that Government and the Opposition agreed to set up a joint committee to organize the celebrations. It would appear now that he wants to "break-away" from the joint exercise.

Last week, a section of the local press carried a story in which the leader of the Opposition charged that the Police had acted "frivolous, malicious and childish" when they had reminded the UDP that they had to sign a bond to guarantee the conduct of a peaceful meeting. The police were only enforcing the law regarding public meetings. As the Deputy Prime Minister points out to the UDP leader in a letter published elsewhere in this newspaper, the opposition has always complied but suddenly they have refused to do so.

In the same article, Senator Manuel Esquivel threatens to withdraw from the unified celebrations. It would appear, however, that he may find himself isolated within his own party for taking such a stand. The people of Belize are all for a unified 10th and 21st September celebrations.

At the very time when Esquivel was making his threat, the Citizen's September Celebration Committee was being formed. Where was the Senator when this was happening. It seems he is already losing touch with his own party. A release from the office of Mr. Elton Jones, President of the Chamber of Commerce, says that in keeping with the theme of unity, the Independence Day Committee and the Committee of 40, have agreed to unite efforts in this year's celebrations.

The next time he feels like making a threat the Senator should consult with his colleagues in the opposition. He should also consult the Laws of Belize before making ridiculous charges.

Collapse of Unity Efforts

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 28 Aug 83 pp 1, 12

[Text]

A REFUSAL by the Prime Minister, Mr. George Price to be present at the crowning ceremonies for the Queen of the Bay on the morning of September Tenth has led to the collapse of efforts to unify this year's Tenth of September celebrations.

A Citizens September Celebrations Committee authorized to work out the unity plan had already approved the programme which involved the presentation of Miss Belize and the traditional crowning of the Queen of the Bay in the presence of the Governor General and the Prime Minister at Memorial Park.

The Prime Minister agreed to be present at Memorial Park on the morning of September Tenth but not for the crowning of the Queen of the Bay. In effect he wanted to make his own grand entrance after the ceremonies were under way, with a fanfare of trumpets and the playing of the National Anthem.

The collapse of the plan will probably mean that the Memorial Park, which is under City Council control, will be denied to the Committee of Forty which organizes the traditional Tenth Programme and the Citizens' Parade.

At an emergency meeting on Wednesday night the St. George's Caye Day Celebrations Committee of Forty reached a unanimous decision. This decision as later conveyed to Mr. Elton Jones, Chairman of the joint Citizens' September Celebrations Committee, was that the Committee of Forty could not in good faith continue to be a part of the Citizens' September Celebrations Committee and the "so called efforts" towards united celebrations.

In a later press release the Committee of Forty gave its reasons as follows:

"(a) Government's failure to enact, as agreed from 1982, a Statutory Instrument designating that the 10th of September be officially

known as St. George's Caye Day. Government has persisted in this failure, despite repeated written and verbal reminders dating back to April, 1983 for such an enactment, from the Citizens' Carnival Celebrations Committee, now known as the Citizens' September Celebrations Committee.

"(b) The refusal of the Rt. Hon Prime Minister to attend the ceremonies on the morning of the 10th, September from their commencement. The Rt. Hon. Prime Minister's objection to being present at the beginning of the proceedings is based solely on his unwillingness to honour the installation of the Queen of the Bay.

"We in the Committee of Forty feel that this slight to one of the traditional features of the St. George's Caye Day celebrations is especially galling in view of the fact that all members of the Citizens September Celebrations Committee had recommended that the Rt. Hon.

Prime Minister be present for the complete programme on the morning of September 10th.

"(c) Reports from our branches in the districts confirm that this year, as was the case last year, Government has made no effort to co-operate in the promotion of joint celebrations, although it was agreed from the very beginning that united celebrations of St. George's Caye Day should be held nationwide."

These actions, said the release, are "in clear violation of the spirit of unity which inspired the formation of the joint Committee for a united celebrations of the 10th. September."

"Therefore," the statement said, "we have been left with no other alternative but to take the decision (to) withdraw from the Citizens' Celebrations Committee."

In a brief statement on Thursday the Citizens September Celebrations Committee said it regretted the breakdown of the Committee's work adding that it had still not given up hope of bringing the two of sides together.

"It is the Chairman's desire that even at this eleventh hour, they reconsider their decision. The Chairman feels that an earlier start could have helped in the negotiations and that efforts such as these take time to accomplish."

"It is a gradual process" said Jones, "and the need for exertion of greater flexibility could give our country a chance to celebrate as one people."

The United Democratic Party also issued a statement, paying tribute to the Chairman of the Celebrations Committee,

Mr. Elton Jones, and laying the blame for the breakdown squarely on the shoulders of the government.

"Both government and Opposition had agreed that politicians should leave the planning of the celebrations to private citizens representing all shades of political opinion....(but) when the Committee drew up a programme for the morning of the Tenth, Government refused to accept it and insisted on its own programme. It is as a result of this that the Committee of Forty has decided that there is no point in continuing with efforts of a unified celebration," the statement said.

In endorsing the stand taken by the Committee of Forty, the UDP statement further declares: "It has become increasingly clear to the Party over the past few weeks that the PUP have no intention of giving recognition to the Battle of St. George's Caye. It is the position of the PUP that the Tenth of September is a day of shame for Belizeans because it is the anniversary of an event that took place in the days of slavery. The new so-called history book dismisses the Battle of St. George's Caye in one paragraph, stating that it was a fight between the British and the Spaniards. In other words it had nothing to do with Belizeans, and therefore has no place in Belizean history and tradition."

"While on the one hand the government has been talking of unity for the September celebrations, over the past few weeks it has stepped up its continuing campaign of harassment and intimidation of the UDP and its officers

and supporters. On instructions from Belmopan the Police have been demanding two thousand dollar bonds for the holding of public meetings, a demand they have no legal authority to make. They have been using technicalities, such as the absurd incident at the last UDP meeting, of granting permission for a meeting and then claiming that they did not grant permission for the use of loudspeakers. They have refused to co-operate with the efforts of the lawyers of the Hon. Basilio Ah to obtain police records of the robbery the Hon. Representative maintains took place at the premises of the Mopan Co-operative.

"In recent weeks also our supporters or their children have found themselves victimized by a frantic PUP government that finds itself falling apart and is lashing out in all directions to try to keep itself alive.

"We cannot accept that a government that behaves in this way is sincere in its call for unity in the September celebrations. Actions speak louder than words. For this reason we are satisfied that we are correct in our analysis of the motives and actions of the PUP government.

"We now issue a call to all patriots of Belize to come out on the Tenth and march and celebrate.

Let us celebrate the People's Day the people's way. May the glory of the Baymen never fade!"

CHANGES IN ELECTORAL DISTRICTS TO PRECEDE LOCAL POLLING

Belize City THE BEACON in English 20 Aug 83 pp 1, 10

[Text]

BELMOPAN has let drop the hint that a realignment of the eighteen electoral divisions is eminent. According to the PUP whisper, Belize City is to be the main target of the boundary changes, which is to be completed in time for the General Elections due in December next year.

The suggestion is that there will be a minimal change in boundaries in the district towns and villages, but that the four largest divisions in Belize City (Albert, Freetown, Mesopotamia and Collet) will be split into two constituencies each.

But a source within the Government called the suggestion a big red herring. It seems that ever since the 1979 general elections, the Price administration has been nervous over the UDP inroads made in Belize City. The Albert Division remains a UDP stronghold; the Prime Minister's popularity has been seriously eroded in the Freetown

Division; the PUP lost the Mesopotamia Division for the first time; were considered lucky to win in Fort George, and the other two (Collet and Pickstock) remains seriously marginal.

This is why it is felt rather than simply splitting the divisions, all divisions in Belize City will be completely scrapped, and brand new constituencies formed.

The exercise, country-wide, could influence the increase of the present 18 constituencies to between 22 to 26 seats, costing the treasury thousands of dollars in added salaries.

The plan will also call for the appointment of an impartial commission to advise on the realignment of the electoral boundaries. This is one area that will be of some concern to present opposition interests.

The Price administration has never shown any impartiality in the appointment of officers concerned with the conduct and

administration of election matters, and is not expected to begin now.

Any commission appointed for this purpose will be geared to rubber stamping decisions made behind the secret doors of the Cabinet.

CSO: 3298/967

GOVERNMENT ASSAILED FOR ACTIONS ON VARIETY OF FRONTS

Politicization of Military

Belize City AMANDALA in English 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Thurs. Aug. 18

The Belize Defence Force Air Wing was supposed to be -gin with four pilots - two civilian and two military.

Last week, they chose the two military pilots - one Diaz and one Usher - both of whom passed the political test, and sent them to study and train at a total cost of \$75,000 in Canada.

Government chose one civilian pilot - one Vega - who passed the political test - and has 250 hours flying experience. Government rejected the other civilian pilot - Francis Lizama, 27, who has 2800 hours flying experience. Lizama's father is UDP officer Frank, a woodworker and artist who criticizes the Price regime from political rostrums.

Francis Lizama therefore failed the political test because of his parentage. BDF refused the most qualified pilot.

Political victimization in Belize has reached the point of absurdity. It has also become so expensive that the government is chronically unliquid.

Government has rejected qualified persons on the political whims of our Prime Minister Witch Doctor.

The Witch Doctor prefers to spend public funds to train "good soldiers," which means PUPs. Then he raises taxes on the rest of us every year to meet his expenses for victimization. The name of this is progress.

Admission of Haitians

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 21 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] EXACTLY one year ago, August 12th 1982, the Toledo Progressive Party which seems to be the only concerned political party in the Toledo District about the Haitians re-settlement plan, sent a letter to the Hon Prime Minister, objecting to this plan.

The TPP also wrote to the Hon Charles Wagner who represents the area where it is intended to place the Haitians. Copies of the TPP protest were sent to the United States Charge d'affairs in Belize Mr Malcolm Barnaby, and to Mr Theodor Bakkars a European consultant on the matter.

The TPP said in its letter:--"the area proposed to re-settle the Haitians (Moho River) is inhabited by the Maya-Ketchi who have nothing in common with the Haitians. The two predominant ethnic groups in Toledo are the MAYA and GARINAGU. The Haitians are alien to the inhabitants of all Toledo in LANGUAGE & CUSTOMS. The assistance which is proposed to be given to the Haitians in the form of LAND, MONEY-GRANTS & LOANS, AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, ROADS and other services with funds provided by the Refugee-Programme will place them in a privileged status, as managers of the agricultural Programme, and our native Belizeans will be relegated to playing a secondary role."

The TPP also said, "We object to any one alien group settling in a zone with preferential treatment given to them which our own native Belizeans are not enjoying, and which we shall have to support even when the Special Refugee-Funds have been exhausted."

Neither the area Representative nor the Prime Minister had the courtesy of even acknowledging receipt of the TPP's letter of objection.

The plan calls for the re-settlement of 2,500 Haitians in Toledo, with a 20-acre plot of land given to each one, plus cash and other benefits.

A U.S. State Department spokesman, Powell A. Moore has said that the project has the support of the Belizean Government.

But after the initial plan was drawn up (to which the Toledo people object) it has been disclosed by United States medical authorities that one out of every ten Haitians are suffering from the dreaded AIDS disease; and as one Belize newspaper has already pointed out, 'not that people know the grim facts about AIDS and about the Haitian connection, it would be nothing less than criminal stupidity to ignore the facts'.

Paraquat Spraying

Belize City THE BEACON in English 20 Aug 83 pp 1, 10

[Text]

THE PUP Government has reportedly agreed to the resumption of the wide-spread spraying of "marijuana fields" with the poisonous herbicide known as Paraquat.

According to the *High-witness News Publication* of Washington, D.C, U.S.A, a U.S. State Department study of the impact on areas heavily sprayed with paraquat in anti-marijuana spraying showed,

that paraquat collects in the ground water and on neighbouring food crops and fruit trees.

Among the more startling effects are:

*Paraquat, in the amounts left by the fall-out in marijuana spraying, is known to kill certain fishes, insects, organisms in the sea and rivers, aquatic plants and seaweeds;

*Cows grazing on quatted

Vegetation tend to reduce milk production more than 50%;

*Horses develop tongue, gum and hard-palate lesions from lightly quatted pastureland;

*HUMANS face the danger of developing lung fibrosis.

The spraying is reportedly arranged through the United States Drug Enforcement Agency's office in Guatemala, and is done with Mexican planes.

Why has the Belizean Government agreed to this dangerous undertaking, when public protest and a Supreme Court ruling have prevented the U.S. Government from paraquatting in their own country?

George Price and his government are only interested in the money

that can be obtained through President Reagan's Caribbean Basin Initiative. Because of our size and weakness, we are being blackmailed into succumbing to big nation pressure.

But there is the health and the livelihood of the Belizean people that must take priority. There must be immediate protest to stop the United States of America and Belizean Governments from paraquatting our farms.

Tell President Reagan to first start paraquatting the marijuana fields in the U.S.A which are vastly more extensive than those in little Belize.

Any spraying in Belize should come after that.

DETAILED STATISTICS ON 1982-83 RECORD SUGAR PRODUCTION

Belize City THE BEACON in English 20 Aug 83 p 7

[Text]

THE August, 1983 Monthly Report of the Belize Sugar Board issued two weeks ago announced that the 1982/1983 grinding season produced a record production of 114,278 tons of sugar, diversifying the 1978 record by 724 tons. The record crop was formally closed at the end of July after 243 days of delivery and grinding.

Total export of sugar and molasses amounted to 71,715 and 18,916 tons respectively. All the molasses were bought by the U.S.A. The bulk of the sugar exports went to Canada (33,862 tons or 47.2%), followed by the United Kingdom 18,306 tons (25.5%), U.S.A 13,150 (18.3%) and France 6,397 tons (9.0%). Belize con-

tinues to fail in its efforts to get our partners in the Caribbean to buy its sugar.

Meanwhile farmers in both Corozal and Orange Walk Districts have been busy replanting smut disease infected fields. The exercise has been made possible through a \$1.6 million obtained from the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The work includes experimenting with seeds of two new smut resistant varieties of sugar cane sold to farmers through the B.S.I. Research Department; and a series of field days programmed between the 3rd and 18th August in 16 villages in both cane districts.

1982/83 PRODUCTION STATS

<u>Cane Ground (Long Tons)</u>	<u>Libertad</u>	<u>Tower Hill</u>	<u>Total</u>
Corozal Farmers	422,664	118,294	540,958
Orange Walk Farmers	-	566,696	566,696
B.S.I. Research	19,796	4,536	24,332
Totals	<u>442,460</u>	<u>689,526</u>	<u>1,131,986</u>
<u>Sugar Made (Long Tons)</u>			
For Export	40,254	69,024	109,278
Local	5,000	-	5,000
Totals	<u>45,254</u>	<u>69,024</u>	<u>114,278</u>
Molasses Made (Long Tons)	15,113	22,357	37,470

YOUTH POPULAR FRONT HOLDS ANNUAL MEETING, ELECTIONS

Belize City AMANDALA in English 19 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

BELIZE CITY, Tues. Aug. 16

The Youth Popular Front (YPF) held its annual general meeting on Church St. with a quorum of enthusiastic and dedicated young people. The meeting was conducted by the U.D.P. National Youth Organizer Mr. Michael Finnegan. Mr. Finnegan clearly indicated that the YPF is the arm, chair and champion of youths for the United Democratic Party. With this progressive organization the YPF shall seek to conduct a massive registration drive so that the young can come out and vote in numbers election time.

THE GROUP RESOLVED THAT:

1. UDP should form the lead -ers in the City Council.
2. UDP should form the next National Government with the people at heart.
3. There is no hope or opportunities for the young under the PUP due to the irritation and frustration of black-outs, the infighting between warring PUP rightist-leftist factions, the corrupt practices at the ministerial levels which the PUP Leader can't control, and the entire country is set against the disastrous and notorious mal-

administration and corruption of the PUP Government.

4. Unemployment is at its highest among young people. No real sporting facilities and centres are offered. No youth incentives are organized. The youths are tired of the way they are handled and ministers of Government do not have the young at heart.

5. Therefore: The YPF seeks to open the channel of communications with young people and to pool ideas for presentation to the next UDP Government. With this in mind the YPF needs the support of each and every young person. So, it's time to ride the YPF way. Join us now.

The following persons were elected to office for the YPF:

Rodwell Pirke	- Chairman
Cleophas Lord	- Deputy Chairman
Bernard Santos	- Vice President
Hillman Haylock	- President
Ramon Vasquez	- Secretary
Steve Reneau	- Asst. Secretary
Perceval Murillo	- Treasurer
Malva Brown	- Asst. Treasurer

- press release -

TOLEDO UDP REPRESENTATIVE ARRESTED, LATER RELEASED

Report on Arrest

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 21 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] The STAR has learnt that Hon. Basilio Ah (UDP Representative for Toledo North) was arrested by Toledo police, and then transferred to Belize City prison, where he was expected to be bailed.

The Honourable man, according to the police in Punta Gorda, will be facing Supreme Court on an alleged charge of fraud. Police indicated that Mr Ah was arrested in connection with the illegal manner in which the Mopan Cooperative liquidated its remaining assets some years ago. Mr Basilio Ah was was Chairman of the Coop, and it was indicated that he sold the Coop's truck and properties without the knowledge or consent of the members

The U.D.P. representative brought up the matter in the House of Representatives accusing P.U.P. Minister of Coops Hon Assad Shoman of trying to instal PUPS in the Coop's management. Hon Shoman denied the charges and stated that the Coop had to be dissolved because its books were not in order.

Basilio's arrest this week came about because he could not produce the Coop's books needed by the investigative team to clear him of any illegal act.

Release by Chief Justice

Belize City THE REPORTER in English 28 Aug 83 p 6

[Text]

Belize City Aug. 25
The Hon. Basilio Ah, elected representative for the Belize Toledo North Division (UDP) was released from jail today after being confined for nine days by a court order for contempt.

Ah was brought to Belize City after a night of detention in Punta Gorda Town on August 17 and confined to

jail on an order of the Supreme Court signed by retired Judge John Alcantara. Alcantara committed Ah and two others for contempt of court after they failed to obey a court order to hand over certain books of account belonging to the San Antonio Co-operative, a co-op which Ah had helped to organize back in 1978.

This morning Mr. Ah's lawyer, Mr. Dean Barrow, was able to convince the Chief Justice, Mr. George Moe that there had been some irregularity in the way the Punta Gorda Police had processed the court order demanding the documents - a faulty procedure which had the effect of invalidating the subsequent committal.

Earlier Mr. Ah had told the court he did not have the documents to hand over because these had been stolen from the San Antonio co-op. He said he had reported the robbery to the Punta Gorda police at the time, but the Police had done nothing about it.

Efforts by Mr. Ah's lawyer to get the Punta Gorda Police to confirm Ah's story did not meet with a positive response.

Later a statement from the United Democratic Party accused the Punta Gorda Police of refusing to co-operate with Mr. Ah's lawyer to get to the bottom of the reported robbery.

Meanwhile the 36 year old Basilio Ah returned by bus to his wife and his eight children this afternoon. San

Antonio, the largest Maya Indian village in the south, is still in a daze over the arrest of its village elder and elected representative for Punta Gorda North constituency. It is hard for them to understand how it is that their representative could have been treated so harshly.

After his release from prison Mr. Ah told the REPORTER that he had received many overtures to abandon his opposition party and join up with the government. He said he recalled many conversations with the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Florencio Marin on the subject. At their last meeting, Ah said, Marin threatened him that he Basilio would go to jail if he did not reconsider his position and join the FUP.

Basilio Ah's predecessor in the House, former Area Representative Vicente Choco, changed sides while a member of the House of Representatives and was accepted into the FUP during his term of office (1974-1979). He was dropped from the FUP ticket in time for the 1979 elections, however.

PRICE DISCUSSES DEMOCRATIC SYSTEM, HUMAN RIGHTS

Belize City BELIZE SUNDAY TIMES in English 21 Aug 83 pp 1,16

[Text] P.M. at San Joaquin Fair

Prime Minister George Price says democracy is dependent upon the law and order which gives us a secure guarantee of peace and a climate for development. He made the statement in an address last week at the inauguration of the 16th annual San Joaquin Fair in the Corozal District.

Mr Price said Belize is a model of democracy on the continent. And he called on all to work to create the new Belizean society.

Speaking on human rights, the Prime Minister said that we must never forget that human obligations preserve human rights.

He said it is the duty of each citizen of this country to assist in the maintenance of the well being of the society.

Minister of Natural Resources and Corozal South representative, Mr Florencio Marin also addressed the inauguration ceremony. He spoke on the Church-Community relationship.

Minister Marin also praised the caneros for their continued faith in the government despite the adverse conditions affecting the sugar industry.

Invited guests at the ceremony included the Venezuelan Consul General Mr Jose Tineo Paria.

CSO: 3298/967

PAPER HITS PRICE'S VISIT TO MEXICO; PRESS REPORT REFUTED

Speculation on Aims of Visit

Belize City DISWEEK in English 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 11

[Text]

The Prime Minister has gone to Mexico City, and as usual, we have not been told for what or to see whom. We assume he has not gone to Acapulco to join Cuz, and that his trip has something to do with the business of government. But all we know for sure is that in his absence, the Deputy Prime Minister will act as Prime Minister.

It is not at all certain that on his return we will be made any the wiser, and so we are forced to do what we try hard to avoid doing when possible, which is to speculate about whom he might be seeing and what he might be talking about. We have to begin with an "if".

If Mr. Price has gone to Mexico to hold talks with President de la Madrid, or even with Foreign Minister Sepulveda Amor, then this is very interesting and very encouraging. The way things are now, we need to be on good terms with one neighbor, since we are not recognized by the other. But, beyond that, it is vitally important for us to keep close to the Mexicans and know what they are thinking about our region. We need to let them know our views, and, if possible, harmonize our policies and theirs.

If Price meets de la Madrid, he will be doing so just four or five days

to Reagan's policies in Central America. Despite the current economic problems, Mexico's foreign policy positions, especially on Central America, are highly respected throughout the world, not least in Western Europe and in Latin America itself. It is Mexico that is the driving force behind the Contadora four-nation attempt to achieve peace in the region through dialogue. Reagan, on the other hand, seems hell-bent on a military solution.

But there is another dimension to the situation. The Contadora group has been meeting, separately and jointly, with the other governments of Central America, excluding only Belize. Yet US Special Ambassador Richard Stone included Belize in his first familiarization tour of the region. It seems that the question whether Belize is or is not a part of Central America is being left open.

This does not augur well for us. The Contadora group is pretending to do an inventory of all the problems of the region. Guatemala appears before the group and claims to have no problems for their consideration, and even attempts to present itself as a mediator for the region. Yet one of the biggest problems of the region is precisely Guatemala's territorial ambitions, its expansion-

ist policies towards Belize. This presents a serious threat to the peace and stability of the entire area, including the Caribbean. The Contadora group should be aware of this, and should express its solidarity with Belize.

Mexico's relations with Guatemala are also very special. While none too friendly, they share a large frontier and strong economic ties. We need to understand how Mexico views the present Guatemalan regime, and work out with them a common approach to the Guatemalan generals.

If Mr. Price meets de la Madrid, there will be much to talk about, including the economic situation and how the trade between our two countries is being affected by the peso's fall. But, if the Prime Minister is able to return with a clear idea of the Mexican policy on Central America, in general, and on Guatemala, in particular; if he can clearly express to them our views and concerns, and if they can arrive at some common approach, then his trip will have been more than worthwhile.

Price Criticism of U.S. Exercises

Punta Gorda TOLEDO STAR in English 21 Aug 83 p 6

[Text] MEXICO CITY Aug 19th--The UNO MAS UNO newspaper of Mexico carried a report indicating that Prime Minister George Price has said in Mexico that he deplores the military exercises being carried on by the United States naval forces in the Caribbean abreast Central America, since this can "frustrate the efforts of the Contadora Group" which is negotiating a set of principles that can reduce subversion & Terrorism in the region. Contadora (Mexico, Venezuela, Colombia & Panama) recommend the withdrawal of both USA and Russia-Cuba military presence from the region.

EDITOR'S NOTE: P.M. PRICE wants British troops in Belize to deter Guatemala, but does not want American forces in the Caribbean to deter Cuba's expansionist aims!

Price Clarification

Belize City DISWEEK in English 26 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

An unsourced paper which appears to be a press release, possibly from the Prime Minister's office, was delivered to 'disweek' on Wednesday in which, by implication, Mr. Price denies the story which appeared in the Mexican daily UNOMASUNO, and which alleges that he said that the US military manoeuvres in the area make the job of the Contadora group more difficult.

The release states:

"Last week Prime Minister George Price was in Mexico to see President de la Madrid and Foreign Minister Bernardo Sepulveda.

"The Prime Minister said the talks with both Mexican leaders related to matters concerning both countries.

"No press conference was given by the Prime Minister. However, while at the Basilica of Guadalupe, he was asked by a reporter of UNOMASUNO to comment on the United States military presence in Central America.

"The Prime Minister said that Belize supports the Contadora Group which has a difficult task to do and this task would be made more difficult by the presence of foreign armed forces of both sides.

"When asked what was meant by both sides, the Prime Minister replied that he referred to both sides of the ideological conflict."

UNOMASUNO

According to the UNOMASUNO interview, Mr. Price singled out the presence of US air and naval troops as the element making the job more difficult for the Contadora group, although the article goes on to say that he desired the military absence of the other side of the conflict, which he called "ideological."

CSO: 3298/966

BRIEFS

CITRUS TO UK--A TRIAL SHIPMENT of 2,500 cartons of fresh grapefruit was shipped from Stann Creek to the United Kingdom earlier this week as part of an on-going search for new markets for Belize grapefruit. A spokesman for the Belize Citrus Growers Association said the shipment was consigned to Sir Joseph Sapliir, next to Fyffes, the largest distributor of citrus products in the United Kingdom. "Although this trial shipment was done at a loss," an Association spokesman told the REPORTER, "it is really an investment for future years, when we hope that a small percentage of the fruit can be salvaged. If this trial shipment is successful," the spokesman said, "and we can get into the market in July or August next year, we hope to sell about ten percent of our grapefruit crop in the United Kingdom and Europe." Because of sinking world prices Belize processors are reluctant to accept grapefruit for processing. [Belize City THE REPORTER in English 21 Aug 83 p 4]

CSO: 3298/968

CENTRAL BANK ALLOCATES \$61 MILLION FOR AGRICULTURE PROGRAM

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 20 Sep 83 p 9

[Text] The Central Bank of Bolivia has decided to allocate 12.2 million Bolivian pesos (US \$61 million) to carry out a refinancing program for the agricultural sector, Jaime Castro, acting general manager of the bank, said yesterday.

He said that the program is designed to restore 143,000 hectares to use and to benefit some 28,800 farmers, while fulfilling the following objectives: a) restoring agriculture to its 1982 level; b) preventing greater migration from the country to the cities; and c) reducing imports of basic foods.

For his part, Herbert Muller, acting president of the Central Bank, said that the program had been defined in terms of the resources that were already available or could be obtained with external funds that had been contracted for. "We believe that, for the first time, financial ceilings compatible with all state and private organizations have been established."

He pointed out that the natural disasters caused by drought, freezing weather and floods had affected more than 35 percent of the country, had destroyed or damaged up to 75 percent of the agricultural and livestock production and had had "a serious impact" on the level of income of more than 45 percent of the country's rural population.

He affirmed that so important is the agriculture/stock raising sector in Bolivia that it employs 59 percent of the economically active population and contributes 17 percent of the Gross Domestic Product.

He maintained that, between 1976 and 1980, sectoral growth "began to show a negative tendency," even declining 2.2 percent in 1982. "If the adverse climatic phenomenon are considered in conjunction with this tendency, we can only characterize the situation as an emergency and, on the high plateau, as a natural disaster."

He said that the Central Bank had successfully carried out a refinancing program for the winter sowing by small and medium farmers, which had required an investment of 2,231 billion pesos in approved funds and benefitted more than 5,000 farmers.

Noting that, as a financial institution, the Central Bank seeks to support the government in establishing its agrarian policies, he explained the sectoral refinancing program for 1983-84, which has the following basic objectives:

- a) Restoring the country's agriculture to its 1982 level.
- b) Restoring normal levels of employment in order to avoid migration by farmers to the cities.
- c) Reducing imports of basic foods.
- d) Distributing financial resources fairly.
- e) Inducing the government to coordinate its economic policies systematically.
- f) Putting at the Central Bank's disposition the financial resources needed to meet the demand for loans to the sector.

Simon Yampara, minister of agriculture, campesino affairs and livestock affairs, declared that execution of the program will serve "to alleviate somewhat the disasters caused by drought and floods, the consequence of which--hunger--has exhausted the Bolivian people."

He declared that Central Bank credits, as well as those from abroad, for the reactivation of the agricultural sector will be routed "directly to the campesinos," which will enable the people's hunger to be alleviated in a short while.

He affirmed, "We want to speed up the paper work and make payments in the shortest possible time."

12336

CSO: 3348/3

SMELTING WORKERS THREATEN MARCH ON LA PAZ

La Paz HOY in Spanish 17 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] More than 2,000 workers of the National Smelting Enterprise (ENAF) have threatened to march en masse to the seat of government, unless the responsible authorities give favorable consideration to the economic demand made by this sector, which consists of a 100 percent increase in wages.

At present, for a one-week period, the workers in this production sector are refusing to allow tin ingots to leave the Vinto metallurgical complex.

The idea of threatening a march on La Paz by 2,200 people and other measures to apply pressure were adopted by a general assembly of ENAF workers. On this occasion, both laborers and managers agreed that the ministry of mining and metallurgy had not offered an acceptable alternative to their wage demands, since the government's offer amounted to no more than creation of a bonus for production once operations at the Vinto metallurgical complex had returned to normal and rejected any increase not envisaged in the wage policy of Dr Hernan Siles Zuazo's government.

Resolution Voted

Following a thorough analysis in the general assembly of the proposal made by Siles, the ENAF workers today issued a pronouncement the principal part of which reads as follows:

- "1. Ratify the measure of refusing to allow tin ingots to leave.
2. Ratify the initial position of carrying outwork stoppages in stages until our objectives are obtained, in accordance with which a work stoppage of 72 hours is decreed for next week.
3. In case the wage demand continues not to be met, 2,200 workers will march en masse to the seat of government the following week.
4. Maintain unchanged our demands for a wage increase and for grocery prices to be fixed at the levels prevailing until the first half of last July."

FOOD PRICE INDEX ROSE 27.5 PERCENT BETWEEN MARCH, JUNE 1983

La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish 6 Sep 85 p 9

[Text] According to "Price Index for Food Products," a publication of the department of National Accounts in the Central Bank's Technical Division, the general index for wholesale food prices registered an increase of 27.5 percent between March and June 1983.

The products of Bolivian agriculture and stock raising "followed an upward trend in prices," especially with respect to essential consumer products, and reached a rate of increase of 35.3 percent. This increase is attributable to the natural disasters that affected agricultural production, the repercussions of which have been felt directly in prices in this sector.

At the national level, the products included in the agriculture/stock raising sector index that registered the largest price increases belong to the following groups: roots and tubers; legumes and vegetables; and cereals.

According to the publication, the indexes of industrially produced and imported foods were relatively stable as compared with the January-March quarter, as they registered increases of 5.6 and 13.9 percent, respectively.

It is noted that the products of Bolivian industry that registered the highest increases were: diverse processed foods, meat and processed meat. The imported products that went up most in price were: tea and animal oils and fats.

At the provincial level, the general indexes that registered the largest increases were those for the cities in Oruro--29.4 percent; Santa Cruz and Tarija--28.3 percent; and Cochabamba--27.3 percent.

The highest rates of increase for the agriculture/stock raising sector were found in the cities of Oruro, La Paz, Potosí, Tarija and Cochabamba--which had rates varying between 36 and 39 percent.

Industrially produced foods did not register major increases between March and June, except in Santa Cruz, where a 21.3-percent rate of increase was shown, as compared with an average rate of 3.7 percent for the other cities.

The most significant changes in the import sector were registered in the cities of Santa Cruz--22.2 percent; Sucre--17.8 percent; and La Paz--13.6 percent.

The following table shows changes in the wholesale price indexes for food products generally, agriculture/stock raising products, processed foods and imported foods.

	Mar 83 Dec 82	Jun 83 Jun 82	Jun 83 Jun 82	Jun 83 Mar 83
General index	56.87	100.02	432.74	27.51
Agriculture/stock raising sector	75.76	137.90	499.25	35.35
Industrial sector	25.40	32.47	299.59	5.64
Import sector	8.37	23.40	245.00	13.86

12336

CSO: 3348/3

MINING INDUSTRY'S RISING COSTS, DECLINING RECEIPTS ANALYZED

La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish 18 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] As a result of the combined effects of internal policy and international prices, the mining industry's costs have risen 50 percent in the last ten months and its receipts have declined 15 to 25 percent, according to an analysis by the medium-size mining industry of the situation in which this economic sector now finds itself.

In an article published in the National Association of Medium-Size Mining's NOTICIAS MINERAS under the heading "The Crisis Depresses Mining," this sector is said to be confronting "a situation that is as paradoxical as it is unmain-tainable"; in the last ten months, operating costs have risen spectacularly, following the rate of the inflation that is consuming us, while, simultaneously and gradually, receipts have declined in real terms, owing to the slump in the world market and to internal economic policy.

It is maintained that this gap between costs and receipts has grown constantly, depressing the sector "to the brink of destruction."

The article says that inflation in Bolivia is not merely an economic concept; "it is a traumatic daily reality of rising prices that is alarming even in the restrained figures of the official statistics."

The National Statistical Institute (INE) has officially acknowledged that, between November 1982 and July of this year, internal prices went up by an average of 113.4 percent. "If this rate of increase is carried forward to August 1983, the estimated rise will be greater than 150 percent," the article notes.

Further on, the article indicated that, in the same 10-month period, the escalation of prices has led, as is right, to compensating wages through, in the case of mining, four rounds of wage increases.

Interest rates for bank loans have risen 50 percent, causing a sharp rise in financial costs. In the area of energy, the cost of electricity has increased by an "exclusive" 38 percent for private mining enterprises. Freight costs in general have risen, and the cost of shipping by rail has just doubled (99.6 percent).

Frozen Unreality

Under this subtitle, the article points out that, from another standpoint, the fact has to be taken into account that the mining industry--both the larger part of it that sells its output to the National Smelting Enterprise (ENAF) and Mining Bank and the small part that exports minerals--receives all its income in Bolivian pesos.

The article says that, owing to the complete concentration of foreign exchange in the hands of the Central Bank, the state receives dollars and, in order to pay the mining entrepreneur, converts them into Bolivian pesos at the official exchange rate of 196 to the dollar. "As is well known, the only thing that has not changed in the last ten months is precisely this exchange rate."

"Nor has the method of calculating payment for minerals been modified in any way, except in the case of gold, the producers of which receive payment from the state at prices approximating reality. In this way, through the weak money with which the non-gold mining entrepreneur is paid, receipts have been frozen," it is noted.

Living Is Not Merely Existing

The analysis points out that, as a result of this situation, the activity of mining enterprises has been transformed in the last year into a struggle for survival. "In order to keep producing, the enterprises have gone to extremes with shares and resources, exhausting their working capital, financial reserves and even injections of fresh capital. They have had to increase their indebtedness and postpone replacing equipment and machinery and even the development of reserves to replace present production. For the first and only time, the Central Bank has asked the unions of miners to provide medium-size mining with funds, not for investment but for the payment of wages."

It is pointed out that "the sign of a well established and well managed enterprise is precisely its ability to face up to adverse factors and hard times."

"But this ability has its limits. The closing of several small mining enterprises and shutting down of some medium-size operations is an unequivocal sign that a limit has been reached," it is stressed.

"If the day comes when the breakdown of private mining compounds the highly critical situation of state-operated mining, the future of this industry, which constitutes the essential productive basis of the Bolivian economy, will have been compromised forever," it is further noted.

In conclusion, the medium-size mining article maintains that this danger is imminent, unless corrective measures are taken to apply an economic policy that would enable the gap between mining costs and receipts to be closed. This result will not be achieved unless mining producers in general begin to receive realistic prices for their products. "No one doubts that gold is important to the country's future, and we all recognize that the payment of realistic prices for this metal served as a just and healthy incentive to accomplish the expansion of production. But our mining industry not only has glittering hopes but

but also the concrete reality of demand for a variety of vital products such as the traditional tin and several others of which we are still important world producers, such as, for example, antimony. When all is said and done, everything has its own glitter and its own weight in the balance of payments," the article concludes.

12336

CSO: 3348/3

IMPACT OF FIGUEIREDO'S LACK OF POLITICAL VITALITY DISCUSSED

Sao Paulo O ESTDAO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Sep 83 p 3

/Text/ Brasilia--More than hurt or irritated, General Joao Figueiredo appeared determined to refute with deeds the malicious comments of General Golbery do Couto e Silva published in the CORREIO BRAZILIENSE about his lack of willingness, desire or health to govern. He was in Cleveland, had been recently operated on, and thus reacted to the interview of his old aide turned adversary. One of the reasons that led him to advance his return to Brazil was to reassume his office as soon as possible and to lend an accelerated pace to political and administrative activities.

Time passed and, unfortunately, despite the willingness and good intentions reaffirmed in a speech on receiving the government from Vice President Aureliano Chaves, the truth is that the president of the republic appears to be proving the former chief of the Civilian Household to be right. He began the coordination of the succession process, summoning governors to Planalto Palace but, besides that, he did not do anything more other than to give more support to Delfim Netto and the current economic-financial policy, which did not represent any change. He let the administration run as it had been running, in tumult but, paradoxically, sluggish. Without supervision, as the economic and social problems intensify.

Thus, the willingness, with his return, to inaugurate a new, striking--and final--stage of his administration did not last long. The ministers continue to be uncoordinated and divided between those of the first and second class. The successive charges of corruption in the public administration merit the same attention as ever: oversight, evasion and, at the most, the denials that deny nothing. New plans lie dormant in drawers. Alternative proposals are considered an affront.

More than melancholic, the final phase of the fifth revolutionary government is becoming dangerous because if he does not govern, or governs at a slow pace and short of national requirements, how will Gen Joao Figueiredo be able to conduct politics? One factor would follow the other; which is equivalent to saying, by revitalizing the administration, attacking the various problems hard, revising policies and people, the president would be capable of regaining prestige, conditions and mechanisms capable of leading him to success in the coordination of the succession process. His advisers seem to have a lapse of memory. If the

political liberalization succeeded at the beginning of the present government, with amnesty, with direct elections and with party reform, it was because obversely the nation was full of hopes in view of the fight against inflation and the resumption of development, of announced social plans and undertakings. With the defeat and the failure in the economy and the administration, and not by coincidence, came the bitter days of electoral contrivances, disregarding the press, threats, constant irritation--there lies the explanation--the defeat at the polls in November of last year.

The illness of the president, certainly also motivated and hastened by those factors, lent itself to a sort of examination of conscience or time of meditation. From the United States came countless signs that when he returned, Figueiredo would be different; to silence the bad predictions of Golbery do Couto e Silva and, more importantly, to utilize the year and a half that remained in rectifications, filling of empty spaces and regaining popular support. Happy illusion. Contrasted with the short-lived but dynamic administration of his substitute, he is achieving the miracle in reverse. He is re-establishing apathy, discredit, and the general tragic choice that the best thing to happen will be for the time to pass quickly. His government has ended without coming to an end. It has become drained before the end of his term. If there is not a turnaround, and quickly, the least that will occur will be the complete loss of control of the succession by him. Very likely, the securing of Paulo Maluf's adventure, resulting from the disarray of the Social Democratic Party [PDS]; as well as, before that, the deterioration of the cabinet itself.

There are not a few rumors, perhaps even signs, that Brigadier Delio Jardim de Mattos even plans to leave the Air Ministry within a short time. He was one of those who fought the most for a change of methods, pace and positions by his friend and even saw his friendship frayed when he did not hide his thinking. There are other ministers like him, imprisoned by loyalty to the chief but seeing the chains of that prison loosen day by day. They are even considered annoying and impertinent if they pose serious questions to him, when they manage to do so. At the most, they are listened to but for a short time.

In short, the government does not govern and its very routine drains itself in the current of doubt, of spiraling social agitation, of disordered but obvious political reaction and general disappointment. For that reason, dangerous ideas are emerging again, which we only mention at the end of this commentary because they are absurd as well as inadmissible in a system said to be open and democratic: there are those who think that the best thing would be the immediate termination of General Figueiredo's term. More than we, do those in charge of the intelligence sector know about those activities (or conspiracies)? Do they have the courage at least to alert the president? The alert might change things....

8711

CSO: 3342/191

BERNARDINI PRODUCES TWO NEW NATIONAL TANKS

Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 11 Sep 83 p 30

/Text/ Sao Paulo--Two new completely national military products are being produced by the Bernardini Company, the only company of its type in the country to produce military tanks with caterpillar treads. They are a mortar-tank, still unnamed, for use in barrage fire, equipped with a 120-millimeter mortar, and an emergency service tank, an armored vehicle of 12 to 15 tons intended to aid and provide rapid maintenance to tanks in the area of operations.

The two tanks belong to the class of a vehicle developed earlier by the company for antiair artillery. The mortar-tank is the first developed in Brazil and has as a competitor in the Americas only the vehicles of the U.S. M-113 line, which have less firepower and use an 80-millimeter mortar. The Brazilian tank is powered by a 220 HP diesel engine with a range of 600 kilometers that can reach a speed of 70 kilometers per hour. It can be operated by only three crewmen: a driver and two operators of the mortar, which is carried inside, facilitating its mobility. The vehicle is able to carry enough ammunition for more than 30 shots.

Universal "Head"

As an innovation, it has a universal head in which mortars of different manufacturers may be installed. Its armor withstands P-30 penetrating fire and the design was developed so as not to require any complementary support. It also has a P-50 machinegun installed on a rotating turret with the mobility to fire at 360 degrees.

The emergency service tank, with a very similar structure, is a small, mobile workshop: it is equipped with a 10-ton capacity crane to tow damaged tanks, a 6-ton capacity crane that enables it to pull vehicles in ravines of up to 50 meters, in addition to aiding the tanks. It has the capability to remove the power unit of the damaged vehicle, some parts of its armament and carries tools for repairs. The design and the equipment are entirely national and were developed for the first time in Brazil. Until then, the armed forces used U.S.-built vehicles of the M-125 line. The Bernardini design has a construction cost 80 percent lower than similar products built abroad.

A company source acknowledged that there is already interest by some Latin American countries in purchasing both vehicles. Previously, the Bernardini company performed modernization service of similar vehicles for the armed forces of Paraguay.

IPEA NOTES POOR PERFORMANCE OF AGRICULTURE, INDUSTRY

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 22 Sep 83 p 28

/Text/ Brasilia--The output of agriculture-livestock increased by 4.6 percent for the first 6 months but, excluding coffee, there was a negative increase of minus 3.1 percent in the sector, according to the semiannual report on the performance of the Brazilian economy prepared by the Institute of Economic and Social Planning (IPEA). The document also analyzes the weakening of the overall level of industry domestically and also cites the unemployment rate in the 6 main metropolitan areas of the country, which ranged between 6.1 percent in February and 7.2 percent in April.

The performance of the manufacturing industry in the secondary sector, according to the Level of Activity Indicator (INA) of the Sao Paulo State Federation of Industries (FIESP), reveals an accrued average variation of minus 1.8 percent compared to the first 6 months of last year. In addition, the figures that make up the INA (total personnel employed, number of hours worked in production, etc.) "show a declining trend that becomes intensified from month to month."

According to the IPEA, "the negative performance of the manufacturing industry stems from the policies of adjustment adopted in view of the exchange crisis and the fresh outbreak of inflation, shortage of funds in private demanding sectors, restrictions on the import of components, high interest rates and retrenchment of the consumer market (loss of real wages and uncertainty about remaining employed).

The document points out that "those sectors that have not been able to compensate for the weakening of the domestic market by turning to the foreign market have felt the adjustment policies more keenly (the case of the capital goods sectors, especially those on order, and civil construction).

Unemployment

Commenting on the employment policy, the report states that "since the current methodology for the unemployment rate began to be used starting in April, it is only possible to make a comparison with a similar month in 1982 for the last 3 months of the first half of the year. There is, therefore, an aggravating factor that can be better visualized when one compares the figures by metropolitan area for the months of June 1982 and June 1983.

According to the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE), during that period, the Economically Active Population (PEA) in the 6 main metropolitan areas of the country together showed a drop of 2.8 percent. The employed PEA also dropped (minus 4.0 percent), while the group of unemployed increased 15.4 percent. In the IPEA analysis, "the drop of the total PEA suggests a strong and growing trend of "discouragement" regarding the prospect of obtaining employment in the labor market in the country's main urban centers."

That is, "during the period being analyzed there must have been a great exclusion from the PEA of persons to gain employment." /as published/ The figures collected by the SINE of the Ministry of Labor, cited in the IPEA report, also indicate that during the first 5 months of 1983, the employed labor force in all of the country's metropolitan areas together showed a drop of 2.3 percent, compared to the same period in 1982.

High Interests

The report observes that "the debit and credit interest rates of the free segment of the financial market reached significantly high levels due mainly to the abrupt reduction of the attraction of foreign funds in view of the difficulties being experienced by the international financial market in addition to other factors such as: the allotment of domestic credit; the attraction of funds by the government through the net placement of public bonds; the high degree of financial oligopolization and the tax on such operations."

However, it calls attention to the "drop that occurred in the real interest rate during the second quarter of this year," identifying as the cause of this change of trend a greater selectivity by customers in the free credit market enabling the financial institutions to apply lower real rates through the reduction of risk.

According to the IPEA report also, planting increased 4.5 percent and livestock 4.6 percent, but since the figures had not yet considered the total effects of the floods in the South and the drought in the Northeast, "the trend of those indicators is for an even sharper reduction."

The IPEA acknowledges that the growing value of the dollar and the rise of interest rates "adversely affected Brazil." Owing to Brazilian exchange practice, the value of the cruzeiro may rise relative to European and Japanese currencies, "thus reducing the competitiveness of our products in those markets." At the same time, "the service on the foreign debt increases as the interest rates increase."

8711

CSO: 3342/191

BRIEFS

MILITARY MATERIAL PRODUCTION--Part of the Rio de Janeiro industry is going to expand its production line and begin to produce military materiel with the aim of insuring conditions that will prevent unemployment. The CBV company, for example, which has facilities on Brasil Avenue in the state capital, is going to produce Bofors guns for the navy, it was announced yesterday by the president of the Federation of Industries of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FIRJAN), Arthur Joao Donato, during an interview in the War College (ESG). Industrial mobilization was the topic of the panel held yesterday by the ESG, which had the participation of the president of FIRJAN and the commander of the Aerospace Technical Center, Brigadier Lauro Nei Meneses. Industrialist Arthur Joao Donato declared that he has already had contacts with the Armed Forces General Staff (EMFA) and is going to have others with a view to proceed with talks aimed at developing an ideal model of industrial mobilization. According to him, from the survey already conducted among the companies that have the capability to build materiel of military interest, the prospects are the best possible.

/Text/ /Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 20 Sep 83 p 31/ 8711

MILITARY ATTACHE TO BLOC--Rio--Brazil is going to have its first military attache in Eastern Europe. He will be an attache for the three armed forces to be appointed to serve in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, opening up the prospect of beginning a military exchange with an area where there was still no relationship of a military nature. The information was given yesterday by military sources in Rio exclusively to O ESTADO and JORNAL DA TARDE. He will be the second new Brazilian military attache: the first is going to be appointed to Suriname, as the first result of the recent mission by General Danilo Venturini to that country as special representative of the president of the republic to strengthen bilateral relations. /Text/ /Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 21 Sep 83 p 5/ 8711

CSO: 3342/191

POLL SHOWS BETANCUR'S POPULARITY UNDIMINISHED IN BOGOTA

Bogota CROMOS in Spanish 13 Sep 83 pp 24-29

[Text] The prestigious firm of Consumer, specialists in public opinion polls, has just completed a poll in Bogota, which was carried out between 4 August and 18 August, or about 20 days ago, before the debate on "hot money" involving minister Rodrigo Lara Bonilla, who is a member of the New Liberalism movement. According to this poll, which was based on interviews with a total of 940 men and women over 18 years of age from all socio-economic levels, as of August 1983, the people of Bogota see Luis Carlos Galan, leader of that movement, as the figure that, in a contest with Barco, Santofimio and Duran, would sweep the field.

This poll shows, furthermore, that, within the Conservative ranks, it is Alvaro Gomez Hurtado, new ambassador in Washington, who holds the leading position with respect to his party's candidacy. According to the respondents, former President Pastrana enjoys great prestige as a leader but is not seen as a possible candidate again. Finally, the poll shows that President Betancur continues to maintain the lead in Bogota, with a decline in approval of only 2 percent as compared with Consumer's last previous poll, and that all the political parties (see Table 2) have a favorable opinion of the president, especially the Conservatives (95 percent), followed by the Liberals (85 percent), Anapo (Popular National Alliance) (100 percent) and, surprisingly, the left (70 percent). This table does not suggest that Betancur has lost support within the Conservative ranks.

Table 1

The 17 Political Personalities Most Favorably Known in Bogota

August

	Do not know the person %	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	No opinion %
Belisario Betancur	--	87	7	6
Luis Carlos Galan	4	76	12	8
Hernando Duran Dussan	8	63	19	10
Augusto Ramirez Ocampo	15	60	8	16
Carlos Lleras Restrepo	4	60	20	17
Maria Eugenia Rojas	3	60	26	10
Virgilio Barco	12	58	16	15
Misael Pastrana Borrero	2	46	38	15
Rodrigo Lloreda Caicedo	36	41	8	15
Jorge Mario Eastman	27	37	20	16
Alberto Santofimio Botero	8	16	57	18
Alvaro Gomez Hurtado	6	31	44	19
Julio C. Turbay	0	24	71	6
Alfonso Lopez Michelsen	2	25	63	11
J. Emilio Valderrama	45	22	11	22
Fernando Landazabal	34	33	17	16
Otto Morales B.	45	30	9	16

According to the above table, the people of Bogota continue to have a favorable opinion of the president, 87 percent being so disposed. Following him are Luis Carlos Galan, with a 76 percent favorable opinion, and Hernando Duran Dussan, who takes third place. Fourth place is shared by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, the present mayor, Carlos Lleras Restrepo and Maria Eugenia Rojas. Her popularity is a real surprise, Virgilio Barco then takes fifth place among those viewed favorably, a remarkable fact considering that the Liberal leader is completely removed from the political scene.

On the other hand, those viewed with disfavor by the people of Bogota are, in first place, former presidents Julio Cesar Turbay Ayala (71 percent) and Alfonso Lopez M. (63 percent), followed by Alberto Santofimio Botero, the Liberal leader (57 percent), and Alvaro Gomez Hurtado (44 percent).

Table 2

Opinion of Belisario Betancur

	Do not know the person %	Favorable %	Unfavorable %	No opinion %
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections				
Liberal	--	85	8	7
Conservative	--	95	4	1
Anapo	--	100	--	--
Left	--	70	10	20
Not voting	--	83	8	9

This shows that, even though President Betancur has gone down 2 percent in the index of his popularity and favorable opinion, he still enjoys a high level of approval among the Bogota respondents, which reaches 85 percent among Liberals, 95 percent among Conservatives, 100 percent among adherents of Anapo and, surprisingly, 70 percent among those on the Left.

Table 3

Response to Specific Questions--Four Liberal Politicians

1. Would Continue Belisario Betancur's Work

	Virgilio Barco %	Alberto Santofimio %	Luis C. Calan %	Hernando Duran %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	24	5	54	9	7	2
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	24	5	57	8	5	1
Conservative	20	5	53	12	8	1
Anapo	14	--	71	14	--	--
Left	30	--	50	--	20	--
Not voting	24	8	47	7	9	4

According to this table, drawn up on the basis of responses to specific questions about the intentions of four Liberal politicians who are possible presidential candidates, adherents of the parties that will participate in the mid-term

elections--the Liberal Party, Conservative Party, Anapo and the Left--believe that, among Virgilio Barco, Alberto Santofimio, Luis Carlos Galan and Hernando Duran, the one most likely to continue Betancur's work is Luis Carlos Galan (57 percent).

Table 4

2. Would Strengthen the Liberal Party

Four Liberal Politicians

	Virgilio Barco %	Alberto Santofimio %	Luis C. Galan %	Hernando Duran %	None of these %	Do no know %
All respondents	24	8	53	9	3	4
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	23	8	58	8	2	1
Conservative	26	6	49	11	3	5
Anapo	29	14	57	--	--	--
Left	20	20	40	10	10	--
Not voting	27	8	48	6	3	7

A second question was asked concerning the same four Liberal candidates, soliciting the opinions of Bogota voters from different parties as to which of them would be most likely to strength the Liberal Party. Again, it can be seen how extraordinarily strong Luis Carlos Galan is, for he enjoys the highest rate of approval by the people of Bogota in this respect (53 percent). Barco follows him with 24 percent.

Table 5

3. Would Win the Support of Voters From Different Parties

Four Liberal Politicians

	Virgilio Barco %	Alberto Santofimio %	Luis C. Galan %	Hernando Duran %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	21	5	59	8	3	4
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	20	4	63	8	2	3
Conservative	22	5	56	12	4	3
Anapo	43	--	57	--	--	--
Left	20	--	60	--	20	--
Not voting	24	6	54	3	7	7

A third question about the four possible Liberal candidates for the presidency has to do with the extent to which, in the opinion of the people of Bogota, they would win the support of voters from different parties. Again, Luis Carlos Galan wins by a wide margin (59 percent). That is to say, the respondents believe that the candidate with the best chances for multiparty support is the leader of the New Liberalism movement.

Table 6

4. Could Be the Next President of Colombia

Four Liberal Politicians

	Virgilio Barco %	Alberto Santofimio %	Luis C. Galan %	Hernando Duran %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	22	4	63	4	4	3
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	20	4	69	4	2	1
Conservative	21	3	61	6	7	2
Anapo	14	14	71	--	--	--
Left	20	--	60	--	20	--
Not voting	28	3	53	3	6	7

Responses to the fourth and last question, as to who, in the opinion of the people of Bogota, among the four possible presidential candidates is most likely to be the next president of Colombia, again favor Galan (63 percent), followed by Barco (22 percent).

Table 7

Responses to Specific Questions--Four Conservative Politicians

1. Would Continue Belisario Betancur's Work

	Alvaro Gomez %	Augusto Ramirez %	Rodrigo Lloreda %	Misael Pastrana %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	20	22	20	16	18	4
According to party for which voting in mid-term elections						
Liberal	15	23	24	15	19	4
Conservative	37	20	16	18	9	--
Anapo	43	29	14	--	14	--
Left	10	10	20	20	30	10
Not voting	16	21	15	17	22	8

When the same question as number 1 above was asked with respect to four possible Conservative presidential candidates, the people of Bogota saw Betancur's work as most likely to be continued by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo, followed by Alvaro Gomez and Rodrigo Lloreda. Former President Pastrana got a lower rating (16 percent). The rest of the table shows the thinking in this regard according to political party.

Table 8

2. Would Strengthen the Conservative Party

Four Conservative Politicians

	Alvaro Gomez %	Augusto Ramirez %	Rodrigo Lloreda %	Misael Pastrana %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	31	12	13	30	6	8
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	31	12	17	28	7	6
Conservative	36	12	8	37	2	5
Anapo	14	43	--	43	--	--
Left	40	20	--	40	--	--
Not voting	27	13	11	26	10	13

With regard to the possibility of strengthening the Conservative Party, Alvaro Gomez takes the lead with 31 percent, followed closely by former President Pastrana (30 percent). As a result of the leading role he played in the National Movement, which put Betancur in the presidency, Mayor Ramirez Ocampo has limited support (12 percent) under this heading.

Table 9

3. Would Win the Support of Voters from Different Parties

Four Conservative Politicians

	Alvaro Gomez %	Augusto Ramirez %	Rodrigo Lloreda %	Misael Pastrana %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	16	23	19	24	11	7
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	13	26	20	24	12	6
Conservative	23	20	19	29	6	4
Anapo	14	29	14	29	14	--
Left	20	20	--	40	20	--
Not voting	15	19	17	19	15	14

Among the Conservative candidates, in the opinion of the people of Bogota, Misael Pastrana Borrero is the one most likely to have multiparty support (24 percent), followed by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo (the logical consequence of his standing in the preceding table). Alvaro Gomez is seen here as a strictly Conservative candidate, an assessment which likewise corresponds to the view indicated in the preceding table.

Table 10

4. Could Be the Next President of Colombia

Four Conservative Politicians

	Alvaro Gomez %	Augusto Ramirez %	Rodrigo Lloreda %	Misael Pastrana %	None of these %	Do not know %
All respondents	30	15	12	14	25	6
According to party for which voting in 1984 mid-term elections						
Liberal	25	16	13	13	29	4
Conservative	43	16	11	15	13	2
Anapo	29	29	14	14	14	--
Left	60	--	--	20	20	--
Not voting	26	13	10	24	24	10

The fourth and last question concerning the four possible Conservative candidates has to do with their relative prospects, as seen by the people of Bogota, for the presidency of Colombia. Alvaro Gomez indisputably holds first place (30 percent), followed at a distance by Augusto Ramirez Ocampo and at a still greater distance by former President Pastrana, who got a rating of only 14 percent, which again indicates how strongly the country feels about reelection. Note that Gomez Hurtado has the highest rating vis-a-vis the other possible candidates among members of all four parties (first column).

12336

CSO: 3348/8

GOVERNMENT INVESTMENT IN AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS IN NORTHEAST DETAILED

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 4 Sep 83 p 4

[Text] San Francisco de Macoris--The Secretariat of Agriculture has invested about 1 million Dominican pesos in the implementation of more than 10 agricultural and livestock programs during its first year in office, aimed at improving and facilitating the services offered to rural families in this area.

Out of this total investment 123,500 Dominican pesos were earmarked for the construction of two centers for the sale of agricultural and livestock material in the Municipality of Arenosa. In addition, 73,960 Dominican pesos were spent to install an electric generator and refrigeration equipment for a controlled atmosphere warehouse in Casa de Alto, Pimentel.

In the same way three coffee processing plants were constructed in the Sub-Zone of El Cercado at a cost of 30,000 Dominican pesos. A regional warehouse for agricultural and livestock materials was built in Angelina-Cotui, at a cost of 500,000 Dominican pesos, in addition to the construction of 16 drying plants valued at 38,400 Dominican pesos.

Dr Jose Roque Estevez, director of the Northeast Regional Office of Agriculture, said that during this first year of the new government four drying ovens for the production of copra were delivered to the coconut growers of Samana and Nagua, whose total value is 28,000 Dominican pesos.

Dr Roque Estevez indicated that last week a combined office and living quarters was delivered to the farmers of Villa Riva, constructed at a cost of 29,000 Dominican pesos. A modern cacao laboratory was formally dedicated in Mata Larga, whose total cost was 36,000 Dominican pesos, in addition to a greenhouse worth 22,000 Dominican pesos.

In the same period of 1 year the Secretariat of Agriculture rehabilitated about 922 plots [tareas] of cacao, for which 988,760 plants were provided; opened up another 1,832 plots of land; and renovated 11,038 other plots of land, according to a statement issued by the Department of Information and Public Relations under that secretariat.

In terms of coffee a total of 41,705 plots of land were renovated, while 2,787 plots of land were rehabilitated, after which 2,279,890 coffee bushes were distributed.

Roque Estevez stated that in the area under the Northeast Regional Office of Agriculture 7,508 plots of land were planted with fruit trees, involving the distribution of 62,092 seedlings. Special attention is being given to the oil seed program through opening up and renovating small coconut plantations. A total of 205,000 seedlings have been distributed to plant 20,500 plots of coconuts. At present another 300,000 coconut trees are producing for the farmers.

Dr Roque Estevez said that in order to continue with plans for reforestation in the area, two coconut nurseries have been opened in Samana with a capacity of 250,000 seedlings and another in Factor de Nagua, which has a capacity for another 200,000 seedlings.

Regarding the Pig Repopulation Program, the director of the Northeast Regional Office of Agriculture stated that a total of 711 pigs have been distributed in the four provinces under the office: Duarte, Maria Trinidad Sanchez, Samana, and Sanchez Ramirez.

Dr Roque Estevez indicated that through this distribution of pigs 135 associations covering small and medium-sized farms have benefited directly. This amounts to helping approximately 4,000 members of the associations.

5170

CSO: 3248/1290

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION DOWN; RURAL EMIGRATION UP

Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 3 Sep 83 p 21

[Article by Pedro Julio Sanchez]

[Text] A member of the Dominican Association of Livestock Production [ADOMPA] has prepared a study in which he sets out the present situation and future prospects of the agricultural and livestock sector in this country.

Dr Alexis Acosta Genao said that an analysis of the studies and presentations which have been prepared, covering the agricultural and livestock sector in this country, indicates that there is a common conclusion in all of them: increasing agricultural production.

Dr Acosta Genao indicated that it is necessary to increase production because in the Dominican Republic the population growth rate is one of the highest in the world.

According to Dr Acosta Genao, the national growth rate is at an annual average of 2.9 percent, which in practical terms means that every 10 years it will be necessary to feed 2 million more people.

The ADOMPA member stated that there is a massive emigration from the countryside to the cities that has reached the point that, where in 1920 the rural population was 83.4 percent of the total population, by 1981 the previous situation had changed completely, with 52 percent of the population living in the cities and 49 percent living in the countryside.

Dr Acosta Genao understands that, under those circumstances, the volume of agricultural and livestock production has declined at an average annual rate of 1.5 percent over the past 22 years, which has increased the use of foreign products under inappropriate circumstances.

The ADOMPA member states that traditionally more attention has been given to the more favored sectors of the economy through budgetary and tax incentives, which, through their impact on Gross Domestic Product [GDP], have absorbed most goods and services, leading to negative consequences for the agricultural and livestock sector and a deterioration in trade with other countries.

He states that the poverty found among the less favored elements of our people has worsened over the last few years, as reflected in a study made by the Secretariat of Agriculture, which concludes that 50 percent of the Dominican people do not maintain a proper diet because they do not have sufficient income to do so.

Acosta Genao believes that the public sector is destined to be the leader in the efforts to increase production, since the government controls the three essential elements to make a major effort in the countryside.

Acosta Genao pointed out that those elements which the government controls include credit, the market, and land, through the Banco Agrícola, INESPRE [National Institute of Price Stabilization], and the Dominican Agrarian Institute.

5170

CSO: 3248/1290

BRIEFS

POWER OUTAGES, BUSINESS LOSSES--The Dominican Federation of Businessmen (FDC) has stated that repeated interruptions of electric service are causing great losses in the business sector. At the same time the FDC asked the Dominican Electricity Company (CDE) to explain fully and convincingly the cause of these constant electric power outages. The business association considers that interruptions of electric service affect the entire national productive sector, since there are many industries which are forced to halt production, while others have to operate with standby generators, which increases production costs. The FDC states: "In expressing the complaints of businessmen over the damages brought about by the constant interruptions in the service the CDE provides, we demand from this state company that in addition to providing a clear explanation of the cause of this situation, at least it should develop a program of planned outages and inform its customers of such a plan through the media." The FDC points out that it is "rather paradoxical" to note that the more frequent the power outages the higher the CDE bills for electric power. The FDC also requests that a clarification of this situation be given to the commercial sector and to the consuming public regarding this serious situation. [Excerpts] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 6 Sep 83 p 9A] 5170

SEED FUND CREATED--The Secretariat of Agriculture announced yesterday [4 September] the creation of the Revolving Seed Fund, under the Program of Sales Centers for Agricultural and Livestock Materials (CVMA). The fund was established under Resolution 122-83, issued 4 September and signed by Dr Rafael Angeles Suarez, secretary of state of agriculture. Under the resolution an official in each of the regional directorates of agriculture will be responsible for collections for this program. In one of the introductory paragraphs of the resolution it is explained that the Revolving Seed Fund was established to maintain a continuing supply of seed to the farmers. [Excerpts] [Santo Domingo LISTIN DIARIO in Spanish 5 Sep 83 p 9] 5170

CSO: 3248/1290

REVIEW OF 1982 PRODUCTION, ECONOMIC ACTIVITY

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 9, 10 Aug 83

[9 Aug 83 pp 1, 4]

[Text] The economic bulletin published by the IEDOM (Overseas Departments Bank of Issue) makes it possible to take stock regularly of a department's economic activity.

Here are a few observations concerning 1982 in French Guiana.

Stockraising

The number of cattle is increasing steadily, and the goal of 12,000 for 1982 was achieved, even though some 600 breeding cows had been destroyed during the previous 2 years because of brucellosis. It is recalled that at the end of 1981, there were only 9,290 head.

The marketing of beef was below forecasts, however, since the average weight of carcasses was still mediocre. In the field of milk production, results were less favorable, but even so, about 30 milk cows were imported in 1982, compared to 85 in 1981.

Hograising is the object of an incentive plan aimed at fully satisfying the department's requirements, 80 percent of which are currently met by local production.* This plan relies on the French Guiana Hograising Cooperative (COPORG) and the PAPPI [Integrated Pork and Fish Production Association] Company.

COPORG, which was established at the end of 1981, currently represents 22 hograisers accounting for 24 percent of the hog population.

The PAPPI Company has established three breeding farms with 185 sows each. As a result, 4,500 hogs are currently being fattened. On 7 August 1982, it also began operating a plant to produce animal feed at a rate of 270 tons of meal per month and a cutting and salting plant that processes about 150 hogs a week. The resulting pork products are sold in French Guiana and the West Indies.

* The number of hogs rose from 8,750 in 1981 to 10,000 in 1982.

As regards poultry, there is a sizable project for the production of chicks and broilers. The facilities will have a capacity of 200,000 chickens, or 235 tons of meat, representing 13 percent of the department's consumption.

Rum

Rum is produced by three firms: the Rorota Company, whose plantations are located in the Remire-Montjoly region; SORIMA (Maroni Rum Company), which supplies basically the local market; and the Saint-Maurice Rum Company, which cultivates 75 hectares of sugarcane near Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni and which installed a distillery unit in 1981.

The total area covered by sugarcane is about 300 hectares.

The production increase is due to the greater areas of sugarcane harvested in the Saint-Laurent region. The drop in exports, which seems to be due to economic conditions, resulted in higher inventories for the producers.

A higher consumption of French Guiana rum at the expense of rum imported from the West Indies is noted.

Mining Activity

Gold production in the department totaled 163 kilograms in 1982, compared to 167 kilograms in 1981. Those figures include the activities of about 20 gold washers, whose production totaled 28 kilograms in 1982, compared to 12 kilograms the year before.

Extraction is carried out primarily by two companies with operating permits: the Arouany Mining Company (SOMINA) and the Paul Isnard Mining Company.

The French Guiana Mining and Industrial Company (SMIG), which was established in September 1981, and the Lassort Company are continuing their prospecting with the help of suction dredgers in the area of Maripasoula.

The Isnard Mining Company (SOMI) has begun working the Matarony River.

The results of prospecting and evaluation activity as of the end of 1982 can be summed up as follows:

1. Gold: a primary deposit was discovered in Esperance. An exploration permit was issued in December 1981 for the Changement site, where mineralization of between 20 and 30 grams of gold per ton was recorded.

2. Diamonds: the shows discovered in the former weathering surface of the Inini River have been made available for exploitation. This deposit is characterized by high grades, but the granulometry of its stones is low.

3. The kaolin deposit marked out in Chavein near Saint-Laurent in 1980 cannot be exploited for local use by the ceramic industry because its use would require

bleaching operations that are too expensive. As an export, this kaolin could be used in the paper industry to coat paper.

4. Titanium exists in beach sand, but its exploitation is not possible for the moment. The same is true of the small quantities of columbite-tantalite discovered east of the Maroni River.

Industrial Development

Industrial development in French Guiana is still on a modest scale. The secondary sector, excluding food processing and forestry, employs about 12 percent of the department's active population, estimated at 20,000.

Of the firms surveyed, 269 employ fewer than 5 wage earners, another 50 employ between 6 and 19, and only 24 have a work force of more than 20 people.

The most highly developed sector is that of construction and public works, which employs 14,000 wage earners.

As part of the measures for encouraging economic development in the DOM [Overseas Departments], 14 projects were granted development subsidies in 1982.

Those various projects are concerned with the following:

1. The breeding of freshwater prawns.
2. A cannery.
3. A fish processing and packing plant.
4. A cattle-raising cooperative.
5. A plant for packing fruit, vegetables, and flowers.
6. The expansion of an industrial dairy.
7. A hatchery for the larvae of freshwater prawns.
8. Poultry raising.
9. A building materials firm.
10. Two forestry operations.
11. A gold prospecting and mining firm.
12. A cigar box factory.
13. The purchase of two prawn trawlers.

Tourism

Tourism is up again following a slight decline in 1980. The Tourist Office estimates that 21,600 people visited French Guiana in 1982, compared to 20,000 in 1981.*

Hotel capacity is concentrated in French Guiana's three largest towns: Cayenne, Kourou, and Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni.

As of the end of 1982, there were 587 hotel rooms divided among five three-star hotels (three in Cayenne and two in Kourou with a total of 451 rooms), two two-star hotels in Cayenne (50 rooms), and fewer than 10 unclassified establishments (86 rooms).

Hotel infrastructure was expanded in 1982 thanks to the increased capacity of the Roches Hotel in Kourou (from 110 to 169 rooms) and the opening of a 103-room Novotel Hotel in Cayenne in December.

Backing up those hotels is a lodging capacity of 130 rooms in more rudimentary establishments or rural lodging houses. A French Guiana VVF (Villages-Vacations-Families) was established in 1982 to set up a vacation village in Montsinery.

There are two travel agencies in Cayenne offering guided tours to their customers. These are primarily "discovery tours," with trips up the big rivers enabling tourists to discover Indian villages and appreciate the diversity of the fauna and the various species of trees.

[10 Aug 83 pp 1, 4]

[Text] The economic bulletin published by the IEDOM makes it possible to take stock regularly of a department's economic activity.

Here are a few observations concerning 1982 in French Guiana.

Housing Construction

Construction activity during the first 6 months held up well in comparison with 1981, but the fourth quarter of 1982 saw a worsening of the drop in activity that had begun to make itself felt in the third quarter. Overall, the number of building permits issued dropped by 10 percent in comparison with 1981. On the other hand, new starts were up by 81 percent thanks to beefed-up inspections by the Departmental Directorate of Equipment. The same observation applies to housing subject to a certificate of conformity.

* This estimate is based on air passenger movements at the Cayenne Airport.

Classified as a tourist is anyone away from his usual place of residence. The statistics therefore include both actual tourists and business travelers.

The financing for housing assistance is included on a single budget line whose total amount in 1982 was 47 million francs. That credit made it possible to provide aid for the construction of 258 very low-cost housing units and 71 HLM [Low-Cost Housing Program] units, pay out 93 premiums for the acquisition of property and 105 rental housing premiums to subsidize French Guiana's two building societies,* and allow them to benefit from loans at interest rates subsidized by the Land Loan Bank of France.

In another connection, assistance was also granted for the rehabilitation of 110 housing units and the development of 100 parcels.

Public Works

Public works projects continued in 1982. Expenditures committed to the maintenance and extension of French Guiana's road network by the Departmental Directorate of Equipment totaled 73.6 million francs, compared to 70 million francs in 1981.

For its part, the National Forestry Office committed 2.5 million francs to the construction of three logging roads. The Departmental Directorate of Agriculture obtained financing for 30 kilometers of agricultural access trails (5 million francs) and 7.5 kilometers of village roads (5 million francs).

As far as national highways are concerned, the budget appropriation totaled 42.6 million francs, and the work was concerned with the following:

1. Reinforcement of the Sinnamary-Diane stretch of road.
2. Completion of the diversion around ELA [space launch complex] No 2.
3. Laying out RN [National Highway] 1 between kilometer posts 195 and 245.
4. Reinforcement of and repairs to the Saut-Sabbat Bridge.
5. Construction of the bridge over Karouabo Creek.
6. Completion of RN 2 beyond the Comte River.

The budget included 31 million francs for investments in departmental roads, making it possible to continue or begin several projects for repairs and improvements.

In the field of port infrastructure, it can be noted that the petroleum wharf in the port of Degrad-des-Cannes, intended to supply the SARA depot and the EDF [French Electric Company] power plant, was placed in operation in March 1982. A third mooring berth with a length of 120 meters is under construction.

* The SIMKI (Kourou Building Society) and the SIGUY (French Guiana Building Society).

Permanent maintenance and dredging operations in the Mahury River and the entrance channel to Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni continued (13 million francs).

French Guiana Space Center (CSG)

Activities at the French Guiana Space Center in 1982 were devoted exclusively to the Ariane program.

In 1982, following four qualification tests in 2 years, the Ariane launch vehicle entered the phase of operational launchings (L-05 through L-10). The first of those launchings, on 5 September, ended in failure.

The current Ariane launch vehicle will be replaced beginning in March 1984 by a more powerful version known as Ariane III and in 1985 by Ariane IV, which will have even greater means of propulsion. The startup of this program requires rebuilding the facilities and equipment at the center and the construction of a second launch pad (ELA-2).

Construction work on ELA-2 began in August 1981. The investment cost is estimated at nearly 700 million francs.

Employment

The number of registered jobseekers rose by 24 percent in 1982. On the other hand, job offers were down by 25 percent. The result was a 31-percent increase in unfilled job requests at the end of December 1982. It is noted that 64 percent of those requests were for jobs in the tertiary sector.

Unemployment among those under 25 years of age accounted for 53 percent of all registered jobseekers.

The number of women seeking employment continued to be higher than the number of men (54 percent compared to 46 percent).

In 1982, 102 people were laid off for economic reasons, compared to 96 the year before.

Prices

Since December 1982, the general price index of groups of products and services has been broken down differently.

The general price index rose by 11.9 percent, compared to 16.5 percent in 1981.

Foreign Trade

Imports were up by 17 percent in volume and by 21 percent in value.

Exports were down by 7 percent in volume, but their value rose by 10 percent.

The rate at which imports were covered by exports fell from 14 to 13 percent.

11798

CSO: 3219/49

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION CALLED NUMBER ONE PROBLEM

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 4

[Text] (AFP)--"Have you got a job for me?" The French or French Guianese passer-by will hear that question dozens of times in Cayenne's Haitian neighborhoods, which are packed with thousands of illegal immigrants who live almost exclusively by doing odd jobs.

Early in the morning at several crossroads in the capital of French Guiana, groups of Haitians and Brazilians gather to wait for their employer for the day, who will come to get them in a car or a small van.

Out of a total population of 75,000, there are 15,000 Haitians, 5,000 Brazilians, about 2,000 natives of the other two Guianas (Guyana, formerly British, and Suriname, the former Dutch Guiana), and 1,000 Hmong refugees from Laos. French Guianese of all political persuasions--from those seeking independence to the PSG (French Guianese Socialist Party) and the RPR [Rally for the Republic] feel that there are currently too many immigrants in this French department in South America. And that proportion of foreigners--amounting to about one-fourth of the total population--leads some people to fear an explosion of xenophobia.

The Cayenne Regional Council has just passed about 30 measures aimed at making it more difficult for foreigners to enter French Guiana and reside or work there and at facilitating their expulsion while promoting the integration of those already established in the department. French Guianese Deputy Elie Castor (PSG) has drawn up a bill for the same purpose, and he hopes to have it considered by Parliament soon.

But French authorities have few illusions about the effectiveness of measures for policing the border. Prefect Claude Silberzahn explains: "After all, we cannot put a policeman behind every tree in the Amazon forest. But we do try to break up the networks of frontier runners by making them less safe and by carrying out a few spectacular expulsions."

Judging from the figures mentioned in Cayenne, an illegal crossing from Haiti to French Guiana costs about 10,000 French francs, and the authorities in Port-au-Prince are suspected of encouraging a good number of those crossings more or less directly.

Entry is even easier for Brazilians and Surinamers: all they have to do is cross either the Oyapock or the Maroni River. Those two rivers, several hundred kilometers long and disappearing into the equatorial forest, mark French Guiana's very theoretical frontiers on the east and west.

Besides the physical difficulty of policing the frontiers, the relative "laxness" shown by authorities in Cayenne is also due to the fact that French Guiana is underpopulated (0.8 inhabitants per square kilometer) and needs an even greater population increase if it is to be able to develop its territory, which is as large as Portugal.

Another paradox: those among the French Guianese who yell the loudest about the "invasion by foreigners" are not loath to use the services of the latter from time to time. French Guianese police laugh about the fact that they recently caught a local elected representative--famous for his xenophobic remarks--as he was paying Brazilians who had just cleared some forest for him.

A number of French Guianese do not hesitate to blame this influx of foreigners for the increased insecurity, especially in Cayenne's Port district, which has been nicknamed "Chicago" because of the numerous assaults that occur there at night. But for their part, local and national police stress the low rate of delinquency in the Haitian population, and the prefect emphasizes that French Guiana is still above average among French departments as far as crime statistics are concerned.

To those who point out that the Haitians supply useful manpower and are more "placid" than the average local inhabitant, French Guianese elected representatives respond simply: "Imagine the problems that would present themselves in France if there were nearly 15 million immigrants there. That, making due allowance, is the problem presenting itself to us."

11798

CSO: 3219/49

PRAWN FARMING SAID TO HOLD PROMISING FUTURE

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 18 Aug 83 p 1

[Excerpt] The prawn, that big freshwater crayfish from Southeast Asia, may well have the potential to give Guianese agriculture a boost and provide this department of France a much needed market opening.

Mr Jean-Michel Griessinger, head of the Guianese branch of the National Center for Exploitation of the Oceans (CNEOX), has undertaken--in association with a small team of highly motivated technicians and researchers--to start up commercial farming of this crustacean in Guiana's vast and unpolluted system of waterways, with hopes that production will reach 500 tons per year by 1985.

In his opinion, the prawn is going to be Guiana's passport to a hitherto unknown source of new wealth: aquaculture.

All conditions are apparently optimal here to facilitate the establishment of small aquacultural farms. The slow rivers and the backwaters that are constantly renewed by the tides are in fact reminiscent of those of Southeast Asia and should favor this new operation.

"Since monoculture does not work very well in Guiana," he says, "it is better to diversify. Prawn aquaculture could provide farmers with a good second income to help them balance their budgets. The banks support us, because since the prawns can be sold after maturing for 8 months, they can start generating earnings quickly. Already about 20 farmers have either started or said they were interested...as have some Netherlanders and Japanese."

"Since there is no local market, one must of course work at finding export markets and freeze or can the prawns here," adds Mr Griessinger, "but it is an upscale product which can support some additional production costs. And the infrastructure needed already exists in the installations that provide local processing of the some 6,000 tons of prawns fished each year off Guiana's coast by a fleet of trawlers made up mostly of Americans and Japanese."

ORSTOM DIRECTOR URGES SOIL CONSERVATION

Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 19 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] Agriculture seems to be one of the last domains in which big enterprises are encouraged in Guiana. Gigantic ranches have been springing up over the last several years. Five years ago there were 1,500 head of cattle in Guiana, and today there are 12,000. Local authorities hope Guiana can be self-sufficient in meat and rice in the near future.

This optimism is not shared by Mr Jean Tissandier, director of the local office of ORSTOM (Office of Overseas Scientific and Technical Research).

"Except for the region around Saint-Laurent du Maroni, Guiana's soil does not lend itself to European agriculture. At a depth of 50 cm one finds a compacted and impermeable stratum which produces a very sizeable runoff. As a result, every 2 years one must restore the pastureland that has been invaded by swamp vegetation. Soil specialists know this, but their advice has never been followed. Instead, enormous tracts of land are provided for almost nothing to people who do not have very solid professional credentials and who generally go under within a few years."

"In Guiana," Mr Tissandier continues, "everyone, including the creole bourgeois, has his 'clearing,' those little parcels of land that are cleared and after a few years abandoned in favor of another. This is true Guianese agriculture. That is what feeds Guiana. But no one wants to say it. One might imagine implementing this 'simple' style of agriculture which does not destroy the soil on large tracts. But only one region is trying it at present."

"After the era of great abandoned projects will Guiana return to the age of the solitary 'pioneers?' This tendency, which seems to be prevailing more and more, is perhaps the main chance for this enormous and still almost virgin land (73,000 inhabitants, 60 percent of whom live in the Cayenne area), which has always attracted that kind of person."

BRIEFS

BRGM MINERAL INVENTORY--The Bureau of Geological and Mining Exploration [BRGM] has just completed an inventory of Guiana's mineral wealth: gold, diamonds, a little bauxite and above all a major deposit of kaolin near Saint-Laurent du Maroni. Gold will doubtless remain the most heavily exploited of the minerals in the near term, because of its value. Mr Jack Testard, director of the BRGM, believes it is worthwhile to continue gold mining on a small scale. While a number of deposits have already been mined in northern Guiana, and it was already known that the southern region also had its own deposits (unfortunately very difficult of access), the survey found that the latter's deposits were three times as large as those in the north. Guiana presently has two major gold mines. The department's total production in 1972 was 162 kilograms. It may be possible to extract about 35 tons of gold from a vein located near Repentir in the south. In spite of sizeable investments, things there are presently moribund due to financial reasons. With regard to kaolin, the region is leaning toward the idea of regional extraction operations, at least until improvements on the port of Saint-Laurent du Maroni are completed. Neither diamonds nor bauxite can be marketed easily under current local economic conditions. In this area, as with development of Guiana's forests, realism will be the watchword from now on, according to Agence France Presse. [Text] [Cayenne LA PRESSE DE GUYANE in French 12 Aug 83 p 1] 9516

CSO: 3219/50

DRAFT ELECTORAL LAW GETS POOR RECEPTION

'Equicrats' Recommend Limitations

Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 7 Sep 83 p 2

[Text] The Draft Electoral Law ought to be limited to its specific purpose, which is the election of a Constituent Assembly, instead of dealing with procedures for the conventional nomination and election of candidates for the presidential office, for legislative assemblies and for municipal offices, this according to the 'equicrats' whose views were stated by Ritscher Arnold, their secretary general.

In a press release pointing out the flaws of that electoral law, the 'equicrats' state that the enacting of this kind of legislation, prior to convening a Constituent Assembly, constitutes an usurpation of the sovereignty and will of the people because it tries to impose a priori procedures and methods which should have been set aside by now as being obsolete.

The role of a truly representative Constituent Assembly, they say, is to decide which form of government the people favor but the present draft law amounts to a return to the traditional system which was, without question, the cause of the divisionism that has weakened the nation.

The tragic lessons of the past compel us to point out these flaws, these attempts to tamper once more with the sovereignty of the people, they say.

What the present government must ask the State Council is to produce a draft law accurately reflecting the will of the people and dealing only with the election of a Constituent Assembly. After this a constitution will be drafted setting out the future form and system of government thought to be necessary to make progress instead of going back to what we had before which is what they are trying to do, the 'equicrats' conclude.

CEDEP Recommends Repeal

Guatemala City DIARIO GRAFICO in Spanish 9 Sep 83 p 8

[Text] The third political forum held by the CEDEP reached the conclusion that the head of state should be asked to repeal the Draft Electoral Law and to reopen a discussion on that subject to finally draft a "Provisional Electoral Law for the Election of a National Constituent Assembly."

In other words, the Draft Electoral Law prepared by the State Council contains many flaws and, therefore, it requires substantial changes keeping in mind the fact that its ultimate purpose is to be a temporary law which will only be used to elect a Constituent Assembly.

For instance, and among other things, the law does not explain clearly how the votes will be counted, it does not stipulate what severe sanctions will be imposed on those who try to tamper with results nor does it lay out in detail all the specific powers of the supervising officials whose task is to control the electoral event in every region or district.

One of the additions suggested by the third political forum of the CEDEP is that on the day of the election the official body in charge of the event, that is to say the Electoral Supreme Tribunal, be given jurisdiction over all police forces in the country and the military be restricted to their barracks.

The third forum of the CEDEP reached the following conclusions:

- 1) That, in keeping with its firm purpose to set up a regime having constitutional legality, the present provisional government does not have the right to enact an electoral law which tries to reach beyond the election and installation of a National Constituent Assembly.
- 2) That the participants in the forum have decided to study and put forward many changes needed to be introduced in the draft law presented by the State Council to show that this law, because it is a very important one, requires further and more detailed study and that such task ought to be entrusted to the future National Constituent Assembly which is the only body entitled to assume such a supreme responsibility given its representative character.
- 3) And that the participants in the forum believe it is absolutely essential that the head of the state be asked to conclusively repeal this "Electoral Law" and to immediately start pushing for the study of a "Provisional Electoral Law for the Election of a National Constituent Assembly."

The said forum of the CEDEP, recently held at the Ritz Continental Hotel, believes that the National Constituent Assembly should draft an electoral law which will be the legal instrument governing the election of the president of the republic and the election of mayors throughout the country. In other words, it believes that the National Constituent Assembly must have the power to give legitimacy to any authority.

8796

CSO: 3248/1279

REPORTAGE ON PNC CONGRESS DELIBERATIONS, SPEECHES

Motions From Regions

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham has undertaken to visit the Makouria area of Region Three, West Demerara-Essequibo Islands, to view the reportedly unsatisfactory conditions in the area.

Cde Burnham, who was present for the second motions-and-questions session Tuesday, day three of the eight-day Biennial Congress of the PNC, agreed to the motion by party members requesting "a meet-the-people tour so that he will not only hear, but see the many hardships" that face the community.

There was no elaboration on this particular motion but in another motion, Region 3 delegates referred to costly transportation from the area and the disrepair of the Makouria wharf. Makouria's quarrying operations are being phased out and the area is expected to develop thriving agricultural settlements.

President Burnham intervened forcefully on a number of occasions to secure immediate action

on various issues during the hectic "motions" session.

As a result, a number of motions were not carried through, direct action being taken instead.

One such motion was that by Region 3 delegates for the provision of potable water to one specific area. Cde Burnham declared that it was "evidently a regional matter" and, after questioning the Regional Chairman, he requested a report by the last day of Congress.

In the case of a motion from Region 6, East Berbice-Corentyne — a decision was taken that the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund will finance the rehabilitation of an access road to agricultural areas on the Corentyne.

Importance of Commission Reports

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

ONE OF the major results of the People's National Congress (PNC) Fifth Biennial Congress will be realised today when the consolidated report of Congress commissions is presented to the Congress at the Sophia Convention Centre.

The 40 Commissions, involving over 3000 delegates and observers to the current Congress, convened on Wednesday and continued Thursday. Participants engaged in detailed study and analysis of the key presentations to Congress by Party Leader Forbes Burnham and General Secretary Ptolemy Reid.

Two consolidating teams led by Cde Cedric Grant and Noel Sinclair are responsible for compiling the work of the Commissions for presentation today. The Commissions themselves met at Queen's College and the Government Technical Institute, Georgetown.

The business of the Commissions and consolidating teams, taking place on four days of the eight-day Congress, is considered in Congress circles as crucial to the entire exercise.

The addresses by Party Leader, President Burnham and General Secretary, Prime Minister Reid, provide guidelines for national and Party programmes over the two years and will probably have long-term effect on national life.

The work of the Commissions is therefore seen as an important educational exercise and also an opportunity for the 3000 participants to add the results of their analyses to the record of the Congress.

The issues involved were outlined for the Commissions in formal discussion guides to the two addresses which engaged the attention of

Commission participants.

For the Burnham's address, the Commissions dealt with matters in 16 areas, including:-

identification of flaws, and improvements which can be made in the distribution system;

how the country can deal with smuggling, black-marketing, corruption and other "undesirable features" of the economy;

the reasons for seeking International Monetary Fund (IMF) help and alternatives to accepting assistance from the Fund;

patterns and habits which need to be changed;

recommendations for improving the industrial climate and combating low production; and

the agriculture drive as the basis for national economic recovery.

The Commissions considered the General Secretary's Report in 13 areas, including:

conditions needed to build "a disciplined, vanguard Party";

defence of the Guyanese revolution "against the machinations of US imperialism";

intensifying the Party's ideological and political work; and

changing structures, systems and rules for improved Party work.

Following the presentation of the consolidated report of the Commissions today, a two-hour session is set aside for discussion.

Role of Party 'Group'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 21 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] THE group, which is the smallest unit of the Party, has some very important roles to play in the development and improvement of the Party, PNC General Secretary Cde Ptolemy Reid, told delegates to the Fifth Biennial Congress Tuesday.

These roles include ideological, political and economic education and welfare work among Party members.

Organisation and mobilisation for national and Party activities, active assistance to the WRSM and YSM groups in the various areas and representation at other Party fora are also tasks of the groups, Cde Reid said.

Another important role of the group must be community participation, particularly in promoting agriculture and self-help activities, he added.

Need for Political Education

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 21 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

During the next two years, the People's National Congress will be placing greater and more sustained emphasis on political education at all levels, Party Chairman, Cde Cammie Ramsaroop, has said.

This action follows the observation that many "Party people are not clear" about some of the current happenings in Guyana, such knowledge is important if Party members and the nation are to understand the present position, he said.

The Party has already begun a programme of 'spring cleaning' aimed at ridding itself of those who have maintained efforts to exploit the

Party by "throwing their weight around and trying to feather their nests", Cde Ramsaroop said.

He added, "Let it be known that paramouncy for the PNC is no shield for misdeeds."

One major objective at this time, he said, is to make the Party recapture "the old position and pristine glory. We will attain to those high days, for the PNC is unshakable and so shall it remain forever".

Senior Party officials who "are too centrally bound" and who "seem to live in a cocoon of their own" must now reach out to the people since Party workers cannot live in a vacuum, he added.

Foreign Delegations

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 21 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

TWENTY-three delegations from friendly countries joined their Guyanese counterparts in the Sophia auditorium on Sunday for the opening session of the Fifth Biennial Congress.

These delegations came from Vietnam, El Salvador, the African National Congress, China, Angola, Cuba, Dominica, a group of Chileans living in exile, the German Democratic Republic, Grenada, Guinea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Nicaragua, Romania, the South West Africa People's Organisation of Namibia,

the Soviet Union, Suriname, Tanzania, Uganda, Uruguay, Yugoslavia, Zimbabwe and Zambia.

But two other delegations arrived later and were present for Cde Forbes Burnham's address the following day. The delegations were from the Dominica United Labour Party and the Pan African Congress of South Africa.

Among the largest delegations were the DPRK, the Suriname Military Council, Cuba, China, (SWAPO) and Nicaragua.

Praise From World Leaders

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 21 Aug 83 p 16

[Text]

THE People's National Congress (PNC) achievements in consolidating Guyana's independence, as well as this country's role in the struggle against imperialism and racism, have been hailed in messages to President Forbes Burnham from a number of his counterparts in other countries.

In their messages to Cde Burnham, who is also leader of the PNC, the leaders took the opportunity to extend fraternal greetings and wishes for a successful Fifth Biennial Congress of the PNC.

Among those who sent messages were President Milton Obote of Uganda, Lt. Col. Desi Bouterse of Suriname, President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, President Jose Eduardo

Dos Santos of Angola and Prime Minister Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe.

Expressing confidence in a further strengthening in relations between Guyana and his country, Zambia's Kaunda paid tribute to the Guyanese people for their "significant role in the continuing revolutionary struggle against imperialism, colonialism, neo-colonialism, fascism, Zionism, racism and apartheid and other systems that flout fundamental human values."

He praised the revolutionary government of the PNC, under which he said Guyana has "continued to grow in strength, achieving unprecedented development in all fields of human endeavour."

The Zambian leader's sentiments were echoed by Angola's President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos, who referred to Guyana's "...support and militant solidarity for and with the Angolan revolution.

Writing on behalf of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Angola and the Workers' Party of Angola, President Dos Santos noted that the PNC Congress was occurring at a "disquieting time when the effects of circumstances created by international reaction, seriously compromise the peace and tranquillity of humanity."

He referred to the "tense situation," in Central America which he described as being aimed at compromising the gains of the revolutions in Nicaragua, Grenada and Cuba, and impeding the advances of the revolutionary process in El Salvador, Guatemala and Chile.

And describing Africa, in particular Southern Africa, as being in a "state of tension," the Angolan leader said his own people "are compelled to live in a permanent state of prolonged and undeclared war imposed upon them by the racist South African government."

This reality, he said, demands from peace-loving peoples, justice, progress and a more effective solidarity.

President Dos Santos expressed confidence that the resolutions adopted by delegates to the PNC's Fifth Biennial Congress would contribute to "the consolidation of the revolutionary gains achieved (by Guyanese) in the defence of their sovereignty, national independence, territorial integrity and for the

well-being of humanity."

In his message to President Burnham, Uganda's leader Milton Obote also expressed confidence in the success of the Fifth Biennial Congress which he said would "further strengthen and consolidate the independence of Guyana and the prosperity of all the people," of this country.

Extending "warmest greetings to the PNC," the Ugandan leader said his party's participation in the PNC Congress could be interpreted as "a positive sign of the fraternity," between the PNC and the Uganda People's Congress.

In his message Prime Minister Mugabe said his party (ZANU) desires to cement its ties of friendship and solidarity with the PNC "as a means of creating a firm basis for co-operation at a national level" between Guyana and Zimbabwe.

The current Biennial Congress, he noted, was being held shortly after the recent UNCTAD conference held in Belgrade, demonstrated the unwillingness of developed countries to come to the assistance of developing countries.

"Accordingly, we of the developing world must now, more than ever before, try to strengthen our relations and seek ways and means of saving our socio-economic systems through the intensification of South-South co-operation," Cde Mugabe said.

It was therefore, necessary he added, that the parties make a review of their past policies and try to adapt them to the new situations confronting them.

And, closer to home, Surinamese leader Lt.

Colonel Desi Bouterse in conveying "comradely greetings" to President Burnham, noted that the theme of the Fifth Biennial Congress, "Will To Survive," was most timely in light of current international developments.

He, also, expressed wishes for the successful outcome of the Congress.

Postponed Party Elections

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

ELECTION of members of the Central Executive Committee of the ruling People's National Congress (PNC) has been postponed following amendments to the structure of the committee during the current Fifth Biennial Congress.

In the light of the amendments, which will allow a greater number of elected members to sit on the committee, new elections scheduled to be held at Congress yesterday were postponed through a motion presented by First Vice-Chairman of the Party and National Mobilisation Minister, Robert Corbin.

Party members will, as a result of the postponement, have an opportunity to study the amended constitution carefully.

The motion approved by Congress directed the Central Executive Committee to continue

functioning for the present.

The Central Executive Committee has also been directed to convene "at an appropriate time" a Special Congress of the Party at which time elections will take place under the amended constitution.

Amendments to the party constitution approved by Congress Thursday, provided that the Congress, supreme forum of the Party, elect 15 Central Executive members along with a party leader, instead of the seven members previously elected.

The Party, leader will now appoint from the elected members a deputy leader and a general secretary as well as other functionaries whose designations he will decide.

The various positions of Chairman, Assistant General Secretary and others are to be abolished under the New Rules.

Faith to Socialism

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

THE members of the People's National Congress feel that "Guyana should not deviate from its Socialist

path regardless of the threats from the imperialist forces."

This feeling was made known Saturday af-

teration when reports of the commissions, which discussed certain aspects of Cde Reid, the Party General Secretary's presentation, were put forward for ratification by the Fifth Biennial Congress.

The report reflected that "because the Socialist policies of the People's National Congress have been perceived to thwart the designs and machinations of the

imperialist forces, the Government has been exposed to an onslaught by the present United States Administration."

Nationalisation of foreign owned transnationals, the pursuit of national self-reliance, Guyana's close ties with socialist-oriented countries in the region, and a reduction of this country's dependence on external forces inimical to development, have been cited as being

among factors responsible for the Guyana Government receiving an onslaught from the imperialist forces.

In addition, delegates and observers believed that Guyanese diplomatic missions abroad should be given a role to play in "countering deliberately slanted information about the situation in Guyana."

Agreeing that the Party was the vanguard organisation in the construction of Socialism in Guyana, the commissions urged that the qualities of good leadership be once more reiterated to ensure that only members who demonstrate these qualities become leaders of the Party. Further, a restructuring of the Party "to respond to the current need of the ongoing task of constructing socialism" was supported by the Commissions.

It was submitted that ideological and political training "inextricably linked to production, and practical activity" be given to selected groups of people in the public sector.

In reference to dishonest practices in the society, Congress requested that a national anti-corruption drive be launched, and "the Party be purged of all corrupt elements and those allied to imperialism."

Commissions' Recommendations

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

COMMISSIONS convened from among delegates to the Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress have made recommendations for the economic, political and ideological survival of the nation.

The report of the 40 commissions, which engaged in detailed

study of Party leader and President Forbes Burnham's address during two days of the Congress, made recommendations under five heads: Imperialism; Economic Aggression; Regional System; National Reconstruction; and Foreign Policy.

The synopsis of the commissions' work was

discussed Saturday at Congress and a detailed compilation of views and suggestions made during the sittings of the 40 commissions will be submitted to the Party General Secretary for appreciation of the full results of the Democratic exercise.

In the area of economic aggression, the commissions recommended that Guyana "should not submit to economic pressure which will involve deviation or abandonment of its socialist path, or would endanger its territorial integrity or any other national interest."

Current attempts by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) "to substantially alter the make-up of Guyana's economy should be resisted" and further, the likely effect on the economy of agreement not being reached with the IMF "should be taken into account and contingency plans to meet the outcome should be prepared."

The commissions at the same time recommended that "Guyana should pursue vigorously its policy of economic self-reliance so as to reduce its dependence upon the international financial and economic agencies and those Governments that are the principal contributors to our development."

The commissions recommended in this connection that production and productivity be increased through the creation of more indigenous raw material-based industries and that efforts should be stepped up to identify the uses of the by-products of the existing traditional produce.

Other recommendations of the

commissions on the question of economic aggression were the continued efforts by Guyana, within the non-aligned movement and other forums to bring about restructuring of the IMF and other international financial institutions to ensure greater advantages for developing countries:

- stronger economic relations with socialist countries;

- continue work for greater south-south co-operations and stronger relations with newly-industrialised countries; and

- stronger relations with Caricom countries and enhancement of the regional integration movement.

The commissions also made ten recommendations on the question of National reconstruction.

Among these recommendations are: that government should continue to be involved in agriculture expansion and other forms of economic activity and the party should be an inspiration and a "sprawling ground for the economic recovery programme."

The Regions should also develop their potential for food self-sufficiency as well as in the use of other materials.

It was also recommended that the ban on imported food items which can be produced locally or which are substitutes for local foods should be maintained.

In keeping with the identification of agriculture as the foundation of the economy, the commissions recommended that "land to the tiller" be made a central feature and urged the ready availability in the

Regions of adequate quantities of planting materials, fertilisers, machinery and other inputs.

All production regions should also have market, processing and storage centres, the commissions proposed.

As regards the Regional system, the commissions recommended that skilled and trained personnel particularly in the area of economic planning, should speedily be placed at the disposal of Regional administrations.

It was also recommended that surplus from Regional economic activities be ploughed back for necessary social infrastructure. Other proposals in this area included a proposal for greater accountability of the Regional Democratic Council to the people of the regions.

Dealing with the question of imperialism, the commissions noted that "efforts of destabilisation are being promoted by agents of imperialism, individuals and institutions because Guyana has chosen a socialist path to development."

The efforts range from "the use of the foreign media to deliberately distort the reality in Guyana, to inducing qualified and skilled personnel trained at Government's expense to emigrate, to the fostering of widespread sabotage and infiltration particularly in the key industrial sector."

The commissions recommended "an intensification of ideological and other forms of political education" with a view to heightening the political consciousness of all cadres and particularly the young.

In the area of Foreign Affairs, the commissions recognised the success of Guyana's foreign policy in recent years. As evidenced in the monitoring of the territorial integrity of the nation.

Burnham Call for Discipline

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

PARTY Leader and President, Forbes Burnham, has expressed his expectation of "hard work, accomplishment and success" by party members following the Fifth People's National Congress Biennial Congress which ended yesterday.

Delivering a charge to some 3000 local and overseas delegates, observers and invitees at the Sophia auditorium, yesterday Cde Burnham also called for discipline by party members and uncompromising enforcement of sanctions.

He climaxed his brief address with a return to the "survival" theme of the eight-day Congress calling on the packed auditorium to sing the song "we shall survive, today", to the tune of the original "we shall overcome". Cde Burnham was loudly applauded during his presentation and received a standing ovation when he concluded.

Assessing the per-

formance during the Congress, the party leader said "A keen appreciation was shown of the forces aligned against the country and of the tasks facing the party and nation."

He expressed a hope that resolutions taken during the Congress would not be ephemeral: "What is at stake is the very future of our country."

Cde Burnham touched on the question of discipline among party members, stating that the party prided itself on its vanguard nature. He warned that a vanguard party must set the example. "We've called for discipline in our society. Let us see discipline in our party."

He urged party members to ensure that no one escapes the discipline the party enforces in future.

He remarked that people are sometimes inclined to be sentimental and emotional and, while he was not saying people should not

forgive, party comrades, if they really love the party and nation, would see that proper sanctions are applied when comrades are delinquent.

He stressed that top party officials should be "above suspicion", explaining that delinquency included outright crime as well as attempted corrupt use of influence. The use of party membership for any purpose other than those set out "so clearly" in the party constitution is delinquency, he said.

And, speaking of the role of party members in the next two years, Cde Burnham said a most necessary duty after the Congress is participation in party education programmes.

He warned, however, that party members would be inept if they do not apply what they learn to the prevailing circumstances. Interest should not be so much on lectures as on work, he said.

Burnham Address to Rally

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

PRESIDENT Forbes Burnham has said that the number of foreign delegates attending the

PNC Congress, which was the largest of all past Congresses,

reflected the growing circle of real friends the People's National Congress has.

In an additional note on the attendance at the Fifth Biennial Congress, of the People's National Congress he noted that there also was present the highest number of local delegates and observers. He said that this demonstrated the seriousness with which the Guyanese people have taken the crisis.

Cde Burnham made these remarks to a mammoth crowd of Party members and supporters during the end-of-Congress rally on Sunday night at the site of the 1763 Monument.

Speaking to this mass of people who overspilled the usual rally area bounded by Home Stretch Avenue and Hadfield Street, the President and Party Leader reported on the decisions of the just-concluded Congress.

He told the thousands of the Party's agreement on the need to further intensify the national

drive for self-reliance, and remarked that it was significant for such a report to be made at the foot of a monument commemorating the struggle for freedom.

Discussing this struggle for freedom in an international context, he used the example of Angola where the people are under constant threat from South Africa and where their land is partly occupied by South African forces.

"So many of us who have won our independence, formal independence, are faced daily with the task of either maintaining or really winning our independence, and Guyana is no different." The President observed.

He said that countries like Guyana are being squeezed because their development is looked at as a threat, and reported a Congress conclusion that developing countries should have closer co-operation especially within their region.

And in a related remark concerned with the well-being of the Caricom states, he said

"the desire to survive creates the imperative of our living together and working together."

Commenting on the situation in Central America, Cde Burnham noted that the general thought perpetrated by the United States of America administration was that as long as the people kill leftists, the people are Democrats, even Augustino Pinochet of Chile. He said that the term "Democrat" changes to suit the environment.

He recalled a recent meeting between the Mexican Head of State, De La Madrid, and US President, Ronald Reagan, in which the Mexican leader said that there should be no interference in the internal affairs of the region, but the American insisted that they must fight the leftists.

The Party Leader's address lasted for well over an hour, and according to PNC Chairman Cde Camille Ramsaroop, it was a grand finale to a Congress which he described as a "rising crescendo."

Plans for December Congress

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

THE proposed Special Congress of the People's National Congress (PNC) is tentatively planned for December 17-18, Party Leader Cde Forbes Burnham announced Sunday.

At this Congress, the Party is to elect its Leader and members of the Central Executive Committee. The elections were postponed from last Saturday.

The Special arrangement was necessary to give party members time to study an amended constitution which changes the structure of the Central Committee and the method of its appointment.

A greater number of the Central Executive Committee members will now be elected by Congress along with the

party leader who will in turn appoint functionaries from among the elected members. The Special Congress will also determine just when the other components of the new PNC Congress Place at Sophia will be completed.

The Party constitution was amended during the eight-day Fifth Biennial Congress of the PNC which ended Sunday.

PPP LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST IMF LOAN AGREEMENT

Scale of Campaign

Georgetown MIRROR in English 28 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] THE PPP in a one-week nationwide campaign (August 23-30) continues to alert the Guyanese people against the additional sufferings which a possible imposition by the Burnham regime of another IMF agreement will bring, and to galvanise resistance against any IMF-PNC deal.

In various towns, settlements, villages, and worksites PPP leaders pointed out that since 1978 when the PNC brought the IMF imperialists to Guyana the economy has been getting worse and the country moving backwards.

The IMF-PNC 'medicine' has brought about large-scale sackings of workers, devaluation of the currency, shortages and higher prices, continued wage freeze, more malnutrition and hunger, greater hardships to poor workers.

Additionally, PNC's failure to reach targets set by the IMF bosses in exchange for the tens of millions of dollars, has resulted in big cuts in social services spendings, that is less for areas such as health, pensions, housing; increased taxation and charges for transportation, water and electricity.

'The IMF is an imperialist anti-popular institution controlled by the USA, which is pressuring the PNC to move more and more to the Right'--to embrace the policies of the imperialists and to sell out the country's interests, is the sound warning being echoed by the PPP.

The Party has repeatedly stated to the hard-headed PNC bureaucrats that there is an alternative to the IMF imperialist road to ruins. To off-set the burdens on the masses the PPP urged the regime to:--

Reschedule or postpone repayment of the huge debts owed to the imperialists; reduce the number of vice-presidents and ministers; cut the big salaries of the PNC elite and reduce overseas trips; weed out some expenses on maintaining embassies and missions abroad and get rid of the so-called Ministry of National Development which is only doing PNC work; abolish or restrict spending on National Service; and cut down on purchase of arms and ammunition.

The PPP insisted that money could be raised locally, in place of IMF handouts, if production is increased. This would come about if the PNC ensure democracy in the country, end political and racial discrimination, draft a planned economy with emphasis at the same time on agriculture and industry, ensure a meaningful role of the private sector, and strengthen links with socialist countries for all-round better deals.

The PNC is likely in spite of 'big talk' to bow to IMF pressures again. The IMF wants, this time, a further devaluation of the dollar, by between 66-100 per cent; a rigid wage freeze and further cuts in subsidies; cuts in government wage bills, (meaning retrenchment in public sector); dismantling of the Guyana Rice Board and participation of foreign companies in state owned enterprises.

These measures, if implemented, will bring greater hardships and sufferings to the people. The PNC itself feel that the measures constitute 'a recipe to riot.'

The PPP, while calling for the IMF to be kicked out of Guyana before further disasters, is also urging workers to fight now for more NIS benefits; increase of old age pensions to \$100; unemployment relief for sacked workers, nationwide school-feeding programme to prevent children from starvation; substantial increase in social assistance; programme of works to create jobs fast and training scheme for youths and jobless.

These short-term demands cannot by themselves solve the crisis, but they can help to ease present sufferings. In the final analysis the PPP is agitating among the working people to support its call for a broadbased National Patriotic Front Government.

Police Action Against PPP

Georgetown MIRROR in English 28 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] EXPOSURES of the PNC-IMF deals are causing much embarrassment to the regime. This explains why a public meeting called by the PPP in Kitty was broken up by the police last Monday.

While the first speaker, City Councillor Harold Snagg was addressing the meeting, the police arrived with orders to stop the meeting, claiming that no permission was granted. The chairman disagreed with the allegation and asked the policemen to check with the Police Commissioner from whose office permission was issued. By the time the second speaker, Barbada Persaud MP, was at the rostrum the policemen had returned, this time with instructions from higher authorities to stop the meeting, again stating that no permission was granted. Five policemen then proceeded to shut down the meeting.

Since the previous Tuesday the PPP had applied for permission. Although repeated inquiries were made, the police declined to give permission until noon on the day of the meeting. Approval was given after the PPP General Secretary

Dr Cheddi Jagan had intervened into the matter. He telephoned the office of the Commissioner of police and was informed that permission for the meeting had been granted. It was then, at mid-day, Monday, that advertisements were made. The late delay had prevented earlier advertisement.

Despite these problems the PPP will be returning to address the people of Fitty on Wednesday 7th, September, with the same speakers who had been cut off from addressing the meeting on Monday last.

The PPP has strongly protested the police actions which led to the breaking-up of its meeting.

CSO: 3298/020

UNIONS EXPRESS DISSATISFACTION WITH TUC, PNC

Criticism of CCWU's Philadelphia

Georgetown MIRROR in English 28 Aug 83 p 4

[Text] CLERICAL and Commercial Workers' Union General Secretary, Birchmore Philadelphia said that a "political solution is the answer to most of our problems" and that there can be no power to the people "once they do not have the machinery to remove a government...that becomes unpopular by its own deeds."

This was stated in his report to the 21st Annual Delegates Conference of the CCWU held between August 20-21, 1983. The report spoke of the deteriorating political, industrial and economic scene and noted that this "dangerous trend" was brought to the notice of the TUC by the four unions, CCWU, GAWU, NAACIE and UGSA. "But our pleadings," said the General Secretary, "fall on deaf ears in the PNC-dominated Council". He stated that at this point the economy "has virtually collapsed" and that for any serious search out of this calamity "we must examine the root causes at home".

Speaking of the TUC, B. Philadelphia, said that the "Guyanese working class has lost all confidence in the TUC" and that steps must be taken to "regain the confidence of the people, so that the TUC is not seen as an instrument of the government." He said that the TUC must do more than merely passing resolutions. He referred to the consensus in the TUC for the need for a political solution and called on the TUC to be more positive in this respect and "ease up on patronage."

He lashed out against the Paramountcy of the Party which has created "an atmosphere for people to squander tax-payers money, grafting, bribery and corruption, apart from the regime usurping the authority of parliament. The bureaucracy of the ruling PNC party gave unlimited power to people to preside over vital interests of the nation without the electorate screening them..." In the same vein he spoke of Collective Bargaining which has reached a state of "frustration for workers"

The General Secretary dealt with the acute food shortage and the decline in production in the major industries of sugar bauxite and rice. He noted that the hiring of scabs in the sugar industry in the 1977 strike "left deep wounds".

The bauxite industry 'was always fermenting with troubles due to the lack of vision and foresight.'

In the Rice Industry he stated that production trend is disturbing. He called for a mending of the rift between the Rice Producers' Association and the government which is interpreted as a call for recognition. This 'rift' he said has caused the industry "to suffer adversely".

On the food situation he said that "a government at all times must be sensitive to the feelings of the people". The mood of the people today is to get "adequate supplies of basic foodstuffs such as wheat flour, split peas, cooking oil, milk, butter, etc." He further noted that if the stage is to be set for economic recovery, "workers must be able to obtain simple nutritious meals at standard cost."

He also dealt with the state of human rights in Guyana and opined that "something has to be radically wrong with the system for reputable social organisations to be consistently charging the regime with violations of human rights." In dealing specifically with the freedom of the press the General Secretary pointed out that the state-owned radio and newspapers were carrying the views of only the regime and not those of the workers. He said that the restriction on newsprint to the MIKKOR and the Catholic Standard is an attempt to stifle the freedom of the press. He called on the government to open up the government media to a cross-section of the community and that the radio stations should arrange programmes that would give "opposition leaders the opportunity to put over their viewpoints on matters of public interest."

The two-day Conference also had on its agenda the address of the General President, Gordon Todd who said that the union is committed to championing the cause of the ordinary man. He demanded that all human and trade union rights be restored and that a 'top priority is to agitate with vigour that there be free and fair elections without fear.' The General President said that his union's commitment to 'peace, progress and social justice is unfaltering....'

GMWU Resolution

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 30 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, Monday, (CANA) — The Guyana Mine Workers Union (GMWU) industrial branch has passed a motion of no confidence in the Trades Union Congress, (TUC) umbrella organisation of the movement here, accusing it of lethargy in handling the case of hundreds of staffers being laid off in the bauxite sector.

Said the resolution: "Whereas the present executive of the TUC has failed to take a positive stand on behalf of mine workers in their recent confrontation with the so-called wider management of GUYMINE and has destroyed whatever little hope

and confidence there was in the present TUC leadership

"And whereas its declared position of co-operation not confrontation with the present government disqualifies any claims by the TUC leadership of representing and fighting for the realisation of the minimum basic needs of the workers of this country, that is, economic, social and political justice.

"Be it resolved that we the members of the industrial branch of the GMWU call on the GMWU executive and the central committee not to attend the TUC conference in September and review the GMWU's affiliation with the TUC"

PNC CONGRESS TAKES STANDS ON FOREIGN, DOMESTIC ISSUES

Blast at U.S. Actions

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 28 Aug 83 pp 3, 8

[Text] The open aggression by the US Administration against developing countries especially those in Latin and Central America and the Caribbean has been condemned by the Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress.

The following is one such resolution moved by the Cde Gwendoline Sallahuddin and adopted by Congress:

Resolution

The Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress,

Gravely concerned at the increase in tension leading to a deterioration in the situation in Central America and the Caribbean;

Alarmed at the military build-up against and the increasing threats of armed intervention in Nicaragua;

Recalling that the problems of the Central American region stem from centuries of economic and social injustice and cannot be explained in East-West ideological terms;

Recalling likewise the ardent desire of the peoples of Central America to live in peace free from foreign intervention and interference and in good relations with their neighbours, and to determine their own destiny in accordance with their own needs and interests;

Recalling as well the principles of the United Nations Charter and of the Non-Aligned Movement concerning respect for political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, non-use of force in the international relations, the peaceful settlement of disputes between states and non-intervention and non-interference in the internal affairs of states;

CALLS for the strictest respect for the political independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the states of Central America, in particular of Nicaragua and El Salvador;

2. CALLS upon the United States Administration to cease forthwith all political, military and economic action designed to pressure, intimidate and harass states of Central America and the Caribbean and to desist from all attempts to impose ideological, conformity on the states of the region.
3. REAFFIRMS the right of the states of Central America and the Caribbean to live in peace and security, free from outside intervention and interference;
4. CALLS for an immediate end to all acts of hostility directed against Nicaragua and to all threats of armed intervention against this territory.
5. CONDEMNS those neighbouring states which allow their territories to be used for the preparation and launching of armed attacks against the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Nicaragua;
6. VIGOROUSLY CONDEMNS all actions aimed at harassing or destabilising Governments in the region;
7. CALLS for a negotiated political solution to the situation in El Salvador;
8. EXPRESSES support for the efforts of the Contadora Group, and calls on all states to respond favourably to these peace initiatives;
9. REAFFIRMS its fraternal solidarity with the peoples of Central America and the Caribbean in their struggles for the defence of their sovereignty and political independence.

Threats From 'White World'

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 28 Aug 83 p 5

[Text]

Out of the contempt which is being shown by certain super powers for the independence of Guyana and other countries in the Caribbean and Latin America, there is growing, in the countries held in contempt, a sensitivity to their independence.

This sensitivity would not have surfaced if the independence and territorial integrity of countries in the area of contempt were as respected as countries in Europe and North America.

But the discrimination of respecting the independence of countries, the population of which is predominantly white

and holding in contempt the independence of countries predominantly black, this discrimination shows that the sanctity of independence is now valued in the context of race.

We recall how the world was made to suffer when the independence of white countries was violated.

In 1914 when Kaiser Wilhelm violated the independence of white Belgium the white world went to the defence of Belgium, taking the black world in stride and millions died because the independence of white Belgium was not held in contempt by the white world.

But the white world remained connivingly and hypocritically inactive when the independence of Southern African countries was ground underfoot resulting in the establishment of apartheid.

In similar sinister smugness and unconcern the white world temporises over the threatened violation of Guyana's independence by territorial aggression and the subtle attempt to violate our independence by white countries daring to dictate to the Guyana Government how loans should be used.

This contempt of our independence is itself contemptible, par-

ticularly when it comes from a country which, rightly refusing to be dictated to, refused to accept taxation with our representation and, rightly again, dumped the tea into the Boston harbour.

The cynical contradiction is that a country, which history recognises as having established a super sensitivity to the implications and significance of its in-

dependence, is not sensitive to the independence of countries in this region.

In a region which slavery could not subdue; where people have the revolutionary genes in their psychological blood stream, this black-white discrimination in the evaluation of independence will be treated with the contempt which its contemptibility fully warrants.

Review of Commission Proposals

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 28 Aug 83 p 5

[Article by Henry Josiah]

[Text]

"Fight the National Battle for Survival

We must have a general revival

We will cut and con-

trive Show the Will to Survive

Win the National Battle for Survival"

This Congress theme song, reflecting the national outlook of today, was widely heard and its bouncy rhythms danced to before and during the 5th Biennial Congress just concluded.

Congress was not only the gathering of 5,000 at Sophia auditorium. It also embraced smaller meetings of delegates in 40 different "commissions" for indepth discussions in

classrooms at Queen's College and the Government Technical Institute in Georgetown.

It involved too, work-site rallies in town and country, addressed by delegations from the 27 fraternal parties overseas and individual discussions among these foreign delegates with the Comrade Leader and the General Secretary, Cde Ptolemy Reid.

Outdoor Congress activities included the Day of Community Service during which delegates and observers from all Regions joined in work assignments to help comrades in institutions and communities improve the environment in which they live and work.

Some of the practical aspects of our drive to "Win this National Battle for Survival" were viewed with pleasure by the thousands of delegates and other Guyanese who toured the National Exhibition which opened during Congress, offering encouraging examples of products of all kinds fashioned by Guyanese to replace imports on which we had long depended.

Throngs of delegates and observers journeyed to Onverwagt in Region Five for an on-the-spot look at the just completed Stage of the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary water control project against the IDB loan for which the U.S. imperialists exercised

their veto even while Congress was in progress.

The harmful impact the imperialist policies of the U.S. Administration were having on development in Guyana especially and Latin America and the Caribbean generally was considered in some detail in the Commissions. They came back to the Congress plenary sessions with the positive recommendation for increased education, mainly in Party groups, to heighten political consciousness especially among our young people and generally to make all Guyanese more aware of the tactics of the agents and forces against us.

Among the recommendations by the Commissions which Congress approved were those urging that

— We should not submit to economic pressure which would

involve deviation from or abandonment of the Socialist path or endanger our national interests

— We should resist the IMF attempts to alter the make-up of the Guyana economy, and try within the Non-Aligned Movement to bring about restructuring of the IMF and other international financial institutions.

— We must pursue economic self-reliance more vigorously

— We must maintain the ban on food items which can be produced locally or for which we have local substitutes,

— We should strengthen economic relations with Socialist countries and with CARICOM

— We must establish mechanisms to identify corruption and other malpractices

— We must purge the Party of all corrupt

elements and those allied to imperialism.

Significantly it was considered that crucial to the strengthening of Party groups was the increased presence and active participation of senior Party and State officials at group meetings.

Throughout Congress discussions, including consideration of motions from the Regions, was a concern over the dual role Regional Chairmen are expected to perform as principal government officials and main Party functionaries

The Commissions supported and Congress approved a restructuring of the Party and steps to improve the work of the Party Secretariat

However, to give Party members more time to study the amended constitution, elections have been postponed to a Special Congress to be held December 17-18.

Burnham on U.S. Pressure

Georgetown NEW NATION in English 28 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

The People's National Congress government will not repeat the mistakes Cuffy made in 1963. Then, Cuffy had too many traitors in his ranks and he allowed himself to lull into a false sense of security by the white plantation overlords.

Guyana, on the other hand is prepared to fight and in 1983 under the People's National Congress, the country will not only survive, we will win, Party Leader, Cde Forbes Burnham told tens of thousands of Guyanese at the mammoth Congress

rally last Sunday.

Countries like Guyana are being squeezed because their development is looked at as a threat to those who control the levers of economic power, he said.

He said that every two years there is some crisis or event to remind us that "our freedom is not consolidated."

In 1979 it was the burning down of the Party's headquarters. In 1981 it was the threat by "the greatest power in the world to block our agricultural development." In 1983 the scenario is similar to

1981, except that the powers that be actually blocked the loan, Cde Burnham told the crowd.

He said that the United States vetoed the loan because the administration of that country "feels our policies are wrong. Our most serious crime is to believe in Socialism" in spite of the claim by the United States that all countries are free to develop their individual political forms, he added.

The US wants to see a dominant private sector in Guyana. But "we are not going to permit the

private sector to be dominant. We shall survive and we shall never be slaves again," Cde Burnham said to loud cheers and shouts of "Our Leader, Our Leader."

It is the very administration that is behind the call for the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola before there can be any independence for Namibia. One part of Angola is occupied by the racist South Africa regime yet there is no call by those who preach about democracy, he said.

UNITED FORCE LEADER INTERVIEWED AT MEETING IN JAMAICA

Kingston THE SUNDAY GLEANER in English 18 Sep 83 pp 9A, 14A

[Article by Kathleen G. Burgess]

[Text]

In the last week of August, Young Jamaica and the Nationalist Patriotic Movement (affiliates of the JLP) hosted a one-week Conference in Jamaica for young political leaders from the Caribbean. The theme of the Conference was "Caribbean Youth for Freedom and Democracy". The workshops were addressed by prominent members of the JLP and the well-known General Secretary of the Caribbean Press Council — Mr. Alister Hughes, a man who lives under severe pressure from the oppressive Grenadian Government.

Among the distinguished delegates who attend the conference were Senator John Williams from Barbados, Mr. Maxwell Burgess, a MP in Bermuda and Mr. Manzour Nadir a Member of the Executive Council of the United Force, one of the Opposition Parties represented in Parliament in Guyana.

I spoke with Mr. Nadir, to get his views on the situation in Guyana and the chances that the Guyanese people have to follow Jamaica's example and escape from the Socialist experiment conducted by the Burnham Government — an experiment which had led to bankruptcy in that country.

KGB: In Jamaica we hear quite a lot about the PNC, the PPP and the WPA, but although the United Force (UF) is represented on the Opposition Benches in Parliament, they seem to be playing a low-key role? Could you tell me a bit about your Party?

MN: Our Party was formed in 1960 under the leadership of Peter D'Daunir. Our present Leader is Marcelles Field-singh who is a lawyer and is one of our representatives in Parliament ...

KGB: What is the political complexion of the UF ... your policy?

MN: We are a conservative Party which believes in an economy based on the free enterprise system. We feel that consumers get a much better deal where competition determines the prices of goods and services as opposed to state monopoly. We believe that a Government should fulfil the needs of the people and safeguard their rights. We believe in equal opportunity for all including educational opportunities and of course freedom and democracy.

KGB: Is your Party racially segregated as are basically the PNC and PPP?

MN: No. It is mixed and a large number of our supporters are Amerindians. We were the first Party to have an Amerindian elected to Parliament.

KGB: Is the UF a real force to be reckoned with in present day Guyana?

MN: Yes. The Guyanese people are looking for a Government that can restore their freedoms, and revive the economy. We are now in the middle of a membership drive to get finances for the Party. This is proving to be very successful despite the fact that it is

dangerous to join up with an Opposition Party (because of state control, most jobs are with the Government and by dissenting one can lose their work). We are bringing in an average of 300 new members every month. Our biggest problem however is a lack of finances and equipment. We lost our public address equipment in 1980 when we held a street meeting which was attacked by thugs and the equipment stolen. We haven't even got the funds to finance a newspaper, as a means of communicating with the people (the press of Guyana is owned and controlled by the Government) and even if we found the funds to finance the publication, we just would not be able to find the \$4 million bond which is required.

KGB. From all indications, things seem to be deteriorating rapidly in Guyana. We hear of massive malnutrition among children, long lines to get basic foods, rationing etc. and in fact just recently it was reported that the Bauxite Union had gone out on strike saying they couldn't work without food. Where is it all leading to?

MN. As far as the Union is concerned, the Government compromised by taking food from other areas to shuttle to the workers, but this has escalated the shortage in the other areas. The workers went back to their jobs but when I left, I heard of further planned industrial action to support the areas that had been deprived.

KGB. Does your party support the Union action?

MN. Most definitely. No one party is going to be able to bring pressure on the Government by itself, so we are going to have to unite under one umbrella.

KGB. Under which umbrella? Is it possible with your party being conservative and the rest being left for you to come together? In the near future I mean.

MN. It is possible. The Guyana Council of Churches have invited all parties to come together to hold discussions with a view to establishing a broadbased Government until fair elections can take place. Some of the other parties have laid down conditions, for example saying they will not sit with the PNC since they say that party is illegal. We are prepared to talk without laying down prior conditions, and just before I

left our representative received an invitation to the discussions. I am sure he will go.

KGB. What do you consider the most dangerous force in Guyana. (This is in terms of depriving people of their rights and freedoms) Is it Burnham's Party or Jagan's Party?

MN. Burnham's. The PNC is socialist and they preach the paramouncy of the Party and really Burnham is the Party ...

KGB. But do not all leftwing parties preach the Paramouncy of the Party?

MN. Well, I think Jagan is more sincere to his cause which is Communism, and because he is more sincere, we would have a better chance fighting against him.

KGB. But communists do not respect the electoral system ...

MN. Well the reality is that Burnham has a force around him which Jagan would never be able to mobilize so it would be easier to fight Jagan. People tend to think that because Jagan is a Communist, Burnham is the lesser of the 2 evils. To remove Burnham, only superior force can win and neither our party nor the Guyanese people believe in violence. We are very peaceful people and after the disturbances in 1961 which led to such a great loss of life, people are not willing to use violence. They believe that regardless of the odds, they will survive.

KGB. One hears of repressive action being taken against opposition parties in Guyana but I can't recall hearing of any such action being taken against the U.F. What is your relationship with the Burnham Government?

MN. In 1967 our leader was Minister of Works and Hydraulics as part of a coalition Government with the PNC. However, he soon resigned in protest against the way in which the amendment of the Election Act was being approached. In Parliament, on the Opposition Benches, the UF operates on a matter of principle. If the Government proposes something that we agree with, we support it and if we disagree we oppose it most vocally. However, the Government has used the State press to undermine our integrity in terms of giving headline coverage to anything we support Burnham on and not report on

what we oppose, thus giving the impression that as an opposition party we are in league with them. Some of our members are in favour of us taking to the streets to put forward our views, but others are against leaving our supporters open to the violence which inevitably takes place when any opposition force takes to the streets. Right now we are sticking to our present strategy of a massive membership drive so the great number of people can know we are on the move and prepared to take up the mantle of leadership.

KGB. Do you see the economic situation improving in the short-run? If your party were in power, what would you do to improve the economy?

MN. Now things get worse each day. The lines for basic foods like rice, sugar and flour get longer and longer. It is so ridiculous especially where sugar and rice are concerned since we produce these. These shortages are caused by a decline in production and not as the Government claims by "panic

buying". They claim it is hoarding that is causing the problems. The fact is that state ownership has taken away people's will to produce and added to that is the shortage of spare parts and the majority of our equipment is in a run down state. Our problems started from way back in 1961 with the introduction of a communist ideology. That has destroyed our economy. The United Force would immediately divest every industry and create a stable environment for potential investors. Guyana has so many natural resources that if investors feel confident that if the Government is stable and market oriented, the economy will improve, but it will not be immediate.

KGB. Finally. How has participation in this conference helped you?

MN. I think my freedom loving colleagues in the Caribbean have now got a better idea of our struggle we face and that we need serious help to restore freedom and democracy to Guyana and Grenada. It has been a first important step in the right direction for which the Jamaican organisers should be thanked.

PPP MOTION ON FOOD IMPORTS DEFEATED IN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Report on Motion

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 1 Sep 83 p 1

[Article by George Barclay]

[Text] The Government, backed by the Opposition United Force, in the National Assembly yesterday rejected a People's Progressive Party motion that called for the importation of wheat, split peas and fats among other things.

Minority Party leader Dr Cheddi Jagan and PPP Parliamentarian Narbada Persaud submitted that the acceptance of the motion would result in a drop in the cost of living, but the motion was defeated after Vice President for Production Hamilton Green gave the assurance that everything was being done to make Guyana self sufficient in food.

The importation of wheat and other foods would not allow such self sufficiency. He noted that people who cannot feed themselves are

subjected to pressure of all kinds both external and internal.

The Vice President disclosed that the \$90M which was used to import flour and split peas, is now used to import farm machinery and other equipment. And in terms of returns from investment in agriculture, he noted that Guyana ranked 15th of over 150 countries, in accordance with an FAO report.

Replying to a suggestion from PPP Leader Dr Cheddi Jagan, that the rice which was being used to make rice flour should be exported to provide foreign exchange for the purchase of wheat flour, Vice-President Green declared that he was completely ignoring the national ethos which clamoured for self-sufficiency.

The Vice President told the National Assembly that the policy set by the PNC to make Guyana self reliant in food will not only succeed, but will make Guyana truly independent.

During the debate PPP member Narbada Persaud brandished rice flour and wheat flour packets and claim that the two products could hardly be compared.

Vice-President Green noting that the mover of the motion had made certain remarks about an ethnic group when he sought to get government to take steps to import wheat, split peas, fats and milk and other essential food items observed that some are unhappy about workers' solidarity and are seeking any opportunity to introduce a mechanism to divide the society.

United Force Mixup

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

UNITED Force leader Marcellus Feilden-Singh said yesterday that his party does not agree with the Government's policy against the importation of wheat flour.

But UF Parliamentarian M.A. Abraham who joined with the Government to reject the People's Progressive Party's "food motion" in the National Assembly Wednesday, voted without realising the import of the motion, according to the U.F. boss.

In a statement to the Chronicle yesterday Mr. Singh explained that he was absent from Parliament on Wednesday as he had just returned from a business trip for Continental Biscuit Company Limited. He was in Barbados, he said "where he went to negotiate for the importation of fats to be used by the company to make biscuits with flour supplied to Guyana by the European Economic Community."

He said that his

colleague in Parliament, Mr. Abraham "arrived late and was called upon to vote first, without realising the import of the motion."

"Mr. Abraham subsequently attempted to withdraw his vote but it had already been recorded," the statement said.

Mr. Feilden-Singh said that "the UF regards wheat as an essential item of food for which rice flour could not be substituted."

The motion by PPP Parliamentarian Narbada Persaud had called for the importation of wheat, split peas and fats, among other things.

Party Position on Vote

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Sep 83 pp 1, 5

[Text] NO DISCIPLINARY action will be taken against United Force Parliamentarian M. A. Abraham who voted with the Government to defeat the People's Progressive Party "food motion" in the National Assembly Wednesday.

UF leader Marcellus Feilden-Singh told the Chronicle yesterday he was satisfied that Mr. Abraham was innocent of any anti-party action and had made a genuine mistake.

He had arrived late for Parliament because the flight from Rupununi was late. All his papers were at my home and the vote was called for as soon as he took his seat', Mr. Singh said.

Mr. Abraham's name is normally called first at voting time and although he did not know what matter had been debated, he voted with the Government as had been the UF's pattern recently, Mr. Singh explained.

"I have accepted his explanation and am satisfied that he made a genuine mistake," Mr. Singh said of his bespectacled schoolteacher colleague.

Mr. Abraham's conduct in voting against a motion from the PPP which called for the importation of wheat flour, split peas and fats, among other things, prompted a statement from the UF leader to reiterate his party's opposition to Government's policy of not importing wheat flour for sale in commercial quantities.

Mr. Singh further recalled yesterday that, Mr. Abraham, speaking in the house earlier this year, had criticised the Government's wheat flour policy and advocated its importation among other commodities.

C.S. 12/14/72

CATHOLIC STANDARD: JAGAN INTERVIEW SMEARS WPA

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 28 Aug 83 p 2

[Text]

"If the CIA helped to place Burnham in power, there is nothing wrong with us (the WPA) seeking CIA help to get him out"

This statement is reported to have been made to the London-based weekly Latin American Newsletters (LAN) by Dr. Cheddi Jagan in an interview published in its July Caribbean Report.

Dr. Jagan, the Newsletter said, attributed the statement to representatives of the WPA.

Copies of the LAN interview were circulated among official papers to delegates attending the recent PNC Congress.

It is significant that the PPP has not yet printed this remarkable revelation in its own paper, the Mirror and the WPA has challenged Dr. Jagan

to say which WPA representatives made it.

The influential LA Newsletters in the interview gave extensive coverage to Dr. Jagan's views for the first time in several years.

This seems to have resulted from the change of ownership of the LAN which was taken over last year by an Argentine-based consortium and recently moved its operations from the UK to France to avoid implementing new agreements with the journalists and printers unions.

In early July members of these unions began an indefinite strike against the company's position, supported by the national executives of the unions.

CSO: 3298/020

PPP STATEMENT OPPOSES RETRENCHMENT AT GUYMINE

Georgetown MIRROR in English 28 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] THE People's Progressive Party in a week end press statement expressed its horror at the decision of the PNC regime reflected by the Guyana Mining Enterprises Ltd (Guymine) administration's measure to sack 1,721 miners. At this point in time and in the midst of a worsening economic and social crisis, such a policy of mass sackings is appalling, and smacks of IMF prescriptions being enforced 24 hours after the PNC Congress ended.

The PPP urges the unions involved (GMWU and GBSU) to stand firm for the workers' rights at this sad turn of events. This large scale retrenchment also smacks of victimisation, following the recent 6-week gruelling strike against a cut in the work-week at Linden from 5 days to 3 days. The victory of the workers is now being undermined by the sackings... in lieu of the reduced work-week.

The PNC regime cannot escape full blame for the sorry plight of the bauxite industry. The grave mismanagement and general inefficiency are twin evils created by PNC favouritism and party paramountcy. Workers' views and experience have been ignored and the vile distrust of the workers has led to nonimplementation of promises to introduce workers' control in the industry.

What Guyana needs at this critical juncture is guaranteed trade at satisfactory prices which will keep the factories going, raw materials flowing, workers employed, and the economy

moving to a position of buoyancy. Much trade has been assured in the agreements signed with socialist countries, but the PNC regime failed to positively pursue those agreements. It has also shunned offers of "unlimited credits" from the Soviet Union.

The western-oriented bauxite industry is clearly in a bad way. The West is in serious recession and cannot buy Guyana's bauxite as the need arises. Market prices are also "soft" as a result of which, Guymine losses are hair-raising.

The Guymine authorities say that the corporation's overdraft at the banks stands at \$175 million, and "has been increasing at a rate of about \$12 to \$13 million per month". The flabbergasted public is further told by Guymine that: "Up to the end of July, losses stood at \$88 million, and it is estimated that these will rise at a rate of \$22 million per month for the rest of the year."

The inference is that by year end, the total losses will tot up to an incredible \$198 million compared to \$100 million in 1982. The overdraft will stand at over \$235 million at year end. These are shocking figures for a state entity to have, and they indicate a serious marketing and production crisis. To meet the losses by overdrafts is to postpone the inevitable crash in the industry. Sacking the workers

will only save \$6.8 million in 1983, and an estimated \$20.8 million in 1984. This clearly means that the workers are not at fault: it is the system. Capitalisation in the bauxite industry is also heavy.

The PPP notes that the bauxite Unions' positive suggestions on how to save the industry, have been relegated to the waste basket by those in charge. The Trades Union Congress should now rise to this challenge and protect the miners. What is the TUC waiting for? Does the TUC have no alternative plan to offer the central government or Guymine? It would be naive for the TUC to feel that the blade of the retrenchment axe will not fall on the necks of other workers in the state and para-statal sectors. The spillover effect will be felt in the private and co-operative sectors too.

This is the time for Guyana to embark on large-scale trading with the Socialist and revolutionary - democratic countries. The fiery anti-imperialist rhetoric of the 5th PNC Congress will now be put to the test. It is in the national interest for a change in trading policy to be embarked upon, which will save our workers from the unemployment scrap heap, and from a life of poverty, crime, prostitution and social evils.

The PNC regime must forthwith halt its retrenchment drive among miners, reject the imperialist IMF prescriptions, and proceed to an alternative programme to the IMF.

AMBASSADOR TO SURINAME COMMENTS ON MUTUAL RELATIONS

Commitment to Stronger Ties

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

GUYANA'S Ambassador to Suriname, Christopher Jones, said yesterday Guyana is unequivocally committed to strengthen her diplomatic ties with Suriname, in view of a recent move by the Suriname military administration to deport Guyanese staying there illegally.

Cde Jones told newsmen in Georgetown that Guyana has been

trying to cement closely the long, harmonious relationship she has established with Suriname.

Nearly 2,000 Guyanese have been sent back home since the Suriname government began deportation, a month ago, of Guyanese, who go there and settle illegally.

The Suriname government, under military leader Col Desi

Bouterse, has recently sought to strengthen ties with Brazil, which borders both Guyana and Suriname.

Suriname, also, has good ties with Cuba.

At the recent Fifth Biennial Congress here, the Suriname military administration sent a delegation, which agreed informally to co-operate with this Government in the dissemination of information on Guyana.

Expanding Trade

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 83 pp 1, 5

[Text]

GUYANA will be seeking to "firm up good trading patterns" with neighbouring Suriname, according to this country's ambassador in Paramaribo, Christopher Jones.

Speaking with journalists Monday afternoon, at a press briefing organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Cde Jones said he had had "informal talks" on trading relations between Guyana and Suriname, with the Surinamese delegation to the just-

concluded 5th Biennial Congress of the governing People's National Congress.

He said a barter arrangement under which Guyana's sugar would be exchanged for palm oil produced in Suriname was "high on the list of priorities" and was now engaging the attention of the Department of International Economic Co-operation (DIEC) within the Ministry of Economic Planning.

The Guyanese diplomat, who began his

tour of duty in Suriname 20 months ago, said although sugar and oil were the principal commodities being considered for better arrangements involving other items were also being looked at.

And there are indications of a good market in Suriname for the corrugated boxes being produced locally by Seals and Packaging Industries Limited (SAPIL). Follow-up discussions on this matter are likely to be initiated.

RELATIONS

Touching on other aspects of Guyana-Suriname relations, Cde Jones said the Suriname authorities have expressed an interest in obtaining more information about

developments in Guyana and their Ministry of Foreign Affairs will liaise more frequently with the Information Officer at Guyana's Embassy in Paramaribo.

The Surinamese delegation to the PNC's Congress also discussed the possibility of the formal exchange of information and journalists between the two countries. They also requested a copy of the video tape recording of

Congress for use on Suriname television. A copy is being prepared by the Ministry of Information.

In the education and cultural field, Suriname has expressed an interest in becoming involved in an English Language training programme with Guyana. And the Ministry of People's Mobilisation and Culture has requested information about the organisation and structure of Guyana's cultural programmes.

Meanwhile, on the recent deportation of some Guyanese from Suriname, Ambassador Jones said because of the haste of the exercise, several Guyanese whose papers were being processed were sent back home. Many were also forced to leave their belongings behind.

However, following representation by the Guyana Embassy, the Surinamese authorities were now scrutinising more closely individual's documents and immigration status.

And Suriname's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was taking steps to "correct the loss of property" by Guyanese who were forced to return home at short notice.

FOREIGN MINISTER CONFIRMS COMMITMENT TO NONALIGNMENT

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 2 Sep 83 p 1, 4-5

[Text]

NON-ALIGNMENT, increasingly pervasive in this region, has set a blueprint for the consolidation of independence and maintenance of territorial integrity of the States in the area, Guyana's Foreign Minister Rashleigh Jackson has said.

In a statement to mark the Day of Non-Alignment yesterday, Cde Jackson said Guyana reaffirms unequivocally its commitment to the principles and objectives which have guided the Movement of Non-Aligned countries.

Despite hostility, and overt and covert interference, he noted, these principles and the policies which they inspire have sustained the membership of the

Movement over the years.

"Today, their relevance is recognised, no matter how grudgingly, by the

international community," he added.

"Non-Alignment is incontestably an influential factor in international relations, a strategic alternative to a system premised on bloc politics," the Guyanese Foreign Minister said.

The convening and successful conclusion of the Seventh Summit in New Delhi in March vividly exemplified the inner strength of the Movement and its capacity to cope with and surmount those internal frictions between States of the Movement, he said.

In Cde Jackson's opinion, New Delhi was a demonstration of the solidarity of members of

the Movement in their collective dedication to its principles.

The Non-Aligned and other peace-loving peoples are particularly disturbed, at this time, by the acutely dangerous situation the present correlation of forces pose to international peace and to the survival of mankind.

There are heightened tensions among the major powers and in several parts of the globe.

The Foreign Minister said that in this region, Latin America and the Caribbean, where there are indigenous impulses for change, the situation is compounded by

considerations extraneous to those circumstances.

Consequently, the pursuit of national liberation, and political freedom, and the exercise of national sovereignty are threatened.

Paying tribute to the four founders of the Movement — Presidents Tito, Nkrumah and Nasser and Prime Minister Nehru — Cde Jackson said: "They and others have done much to enshrine the principles of Non-Alignment and to secure their universal acceptance."

"Those principles and the policy of Non-Alignment are a cornerstone of Guyana's foreign policy and unalterably inform our relations with other States," the Foreign Minister said.

BURNHAM NOTES PLANS FOR ANTICORRUPTION LEGISLATION

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 pp 1, 4

[Text]

Legislation will soon be introduced into Parliament to effectively take care of corruption by public officers and members of the PNC. This was announced last night by President Forbes Burnham at the after-Congress rally of the People's National Congress.

The President, who had earlier referred to bandwaggoners in the PNC, said that as far as the Party is concerned, there will be no trial for corrupt members. They will be dealt with condignly. He revealed that the Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress had amended the constitution so that such a measure could be effected.

In an address lasting over one hour, Party Leader Cde Burnham related to a mammoth crowd around the 1763 monument the decisions taken by the eight-day Congress which concluded yesterday.

"I came to tell you like it is and ask you to share with your party a vision of the future," He said.

He said that it was agreed at the Congress that if this nation was to further develop, it needed to be self-reliant.

But it was impossible to have a high level of foreign consumption and still develop.

He stated that the imported split peas will not be brought into Guyana again, and suggested about ten local replacements for this commodity.

He said that Congress concluded that the farmers must be at the top of the triangle and not at the "bottom of the pile." He explained that Guyana was placing great emphasis on agriculture, because the nation cannot eat machinery, and he again warned that any country depending on another for food could become a slave of that country. He assured that Guyanese will never become slaves.

The President stated that every two years some crisis arises to remind the Guyanese people that they could lose their independence. He recalled that in 1979 the PNC headquarters was destroyed by fire, in 1981 the United States Government threatened to block international finance going to local agricultural development, and this year that

administration went past the stage of threats and blocked a further loan for the MMA project. But, the President reaffirmed "come hell or high water, we will survive." This was met by a hearty round of applause.

He said that the Congress resolved to complete the work on MMA in the projected time, and called to memory the work of our ancestors who, he said, had built many roads and dug canals with the only sophisticated equipment being a man-operated pulley. "Are we less than our forefathers?" he asked.

He mentioned the many untapped resources of the land, both mineral and agricultural, and announced that there were current discussions between Guyana and an oil exploration firm for the re-commencing of drilling for oil in the Takatu area.

The Party Leader enquired of the crowd "Why should we be downhearted in the midst of such wealth and vast riches?"

GUYMINE PLANS TO LAY OFF 1,721; OPPOSITION FORCES PROTEST

Proposals to Unions

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 21 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

A package of measures which includes proposals for the retrenchment of some 1721 management and non-management bauxite workers, has been submitted by the Guyana Mining Enterprise (Guymine) to the two bauxite unions — the Guyana Mine Workers' Union and the Guyana Bauxite Supervisors' Union.

The package, Guymine explained, is intended to reduce the company's operating costs and boost its efficiency.

Other measures include proposals for the closure of the North Dorabec Mine early next year, and reduced expenditure on the contract with the Green Construction Company.

The Company has also outlined to the unions several suggestions which, it contends, will help improve its operational efficiency. These include the implementation of an upgraded maintenance programme, the introduction of new kiln burners to reduce fuel consumption, and the manufacture of spare parts locally in association with the Guyana National

Engineering Corporation (Guynec).

In addition, Guymine says it plans to revitalise its management development programmes, to improve the level and quality of its market intelligence and to undertake an intensive market survey programme.

To this end, a team of technical and marketing personnel is currently visiting Europe and the United States for discussions with customers there.

It is not yet known when Guymine will put into operation its proposals for reducing the workforce. It is understood, however that the Central Government and Guymine will set up a special team to help retrenched workers find new avenues of employment.

Sometime ago, when there was cause for retrenchment in the industry, a similar team headed by Prime Minister Ptolemy Reid was successful in finding gainful employment for several of the affected workers.

The two bauxite unions, it is understood, while not rejecting the

need for a reduction in the company's workforce, are advocating that retrenchment benefits should be paid promptly.

Meanwhile, in the package of proposals submitted to the unions, Guymine has explained that its overdraft, which now stands at nearly \$175 million has been increasing at a rate of about \$12 to \$13 million monthly.

Up to the end of July, its losses stood at \$85 million and it's estimated that these will rise at a rate of \$22 million per month for the rest of this year. The losses are being financed through overdraft facilities extended by the Guyana National Co-operative Bank.

The company listed low market prices and volumes, combined with high unit production and stockpiling costs, as some of the factors contributing to its losses. It also laid some of the blame on internal and managerial inefficiencies.

The company calculates that by reducing its workforce by approximately 20 per cent (1,406 in Linden and 215 in Berbice), it will

save approximately \$6,851 million or 10.5 per cent of its budgeted employment costs this year.

It has also calculated that if wages, salaries and associated benefits remain the same for 1984, savings in this area next year will be approximately \$20.6 million or 31 per cent of the budgeted employment costs.

Meanwhile, Guymine hopes to save \$8 million by February 1984 on the "Green" contract by reducing overtime, eliminating the provision of meals for each worker per shift in the operations and reducing expatriate and local employment costs.

In addition, a rigid policy of purchasing only critical spare parts is expected to save some \$2 million on this contract, which comes to an end next February.

According to the

company, its proposed improved maintenance programme will lead to a 30 to 40 per cent improvement on equipment availability at both the Linden and Berbice operations.

Guymine contends that the situation in the Bauxite industry, which is already plagued by the effects of the worldwide economic recession, has been made worse by the recent one-day per week stoppages sanctioned by the GMWU.

The company's worsening financial situation had recently forced it to introduce a three-day workweek at some sections at its Linden operations a decision which prompted a six-week strike in the industry.

And, in keeping with the terms of resumption agreed on between the two unions and the

company, immediately after workers returned to their jobs, the company and the unions met and discussed the state of the industry with a view to arriving at ways and means of reducing costs and improving efficiency.

Those talks ended earlier this month without any conclusive agreements being reached. And, in keeping with the collective labour agreement with each of the two unions, Guymine invited them for discussions last Monday and submitted its package of proposals which are seen as an alternative to a reduced workweek.

Guymine, it has explained, has considered taking this step over a year ago but had been requested by the central government to refrain from doing so. (GNA)

PPP Organ's Coverage

Georgetown MIRROR in English 21 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

GUAYANA's recession-ridden bauxite industry has again been brought to the brink of industrial turmoil as the state-owned firm's bosses served a surprise notice last week that come tomorrow, 1,721 workers will be booted out in a new wave of retrenchment.

The threat to carry out this massive lay-off was made public Tuesday afternoon by Guyana Mine Workers' Union President, Stephen Lewis during a meeting of members at its Linden Union Hall. Hundreds turned up at the Hall to listen to the sad news.

Informed sources said the Union, after receiving word of Guymine's intention, tried to hold further discussions in an attempt to stay the firm's

hands. Up to press time they have been unsuccessful. The Union is pushing to obtain a list of those to be retrenched and to settle matters pertaining to retrenchment benefits.

Sources in the Union's leadership told the MIRROR that GMWU's Executive is to decide at an emergency executive meeting on a course of action. Though the Union has said retrenchment must be a last resort in trying to save the company, there has not been any clear-cut position opposing retrenchment. Rank and file members, however, have expressed their violent opposition to the threat to lay-off the 1,721 persons.

The proposed package for recovery unveiled by Guymine includes trimming of operations in various areas. The package

contains some proposals suggested by the Union in a memorandum during talks with Guymine after the end of the last strike in July 1983.

The scope of the retrenchment means that technical and supervisory personnel are included despite Guymine's complaint about a shortage of skilled staff. Statistics show that the money saved through the massive lay-offs will not affect in any considerable way Guymine's current losses which it claims to be in the vicinity of \$12 million per month.

The industry suffered further losses recently when a general strike hit its Demerara and Berbice operations and lasted six weeks. The industrial unrest erupted when Guymine reduced the work-week from five to three days. After six weeks the company was forced to revert back to the five-day work-week.

This latest attempt to cut the work force is seen as a frantic move by the regime to bail out the industry at the expense of the workers, from its current crisis compounded by loss of markets abroad. Mishandling of the enterprise resulted in its becoming an unreliable supplier. Several foreign firms have been brought in to run various aspects of operations at huge costs. It is understood that foreign personnel receive as much as 13 times the salary of their local counterparts. Additionally, it

has been estimated that mining at the Harakara mines can be done 4 times cheaper through local operators than by Green Construction, one of the foreign firms involved.

Apart from its pronouncements that there is not enough justification for the company's lay-off threat, it is not clear whether the Union is in a position to go into another strike. The recent strike has seen the PNC regime bringing out the police against the strikers. Several other union-busting acts have been reported. However, indications are that pressures from the workers will result in militant union action.

The PNC is out to get at the new leadership of the Union. GMWU is one of the Unions ousted from the leadership of the TUC.

In the meantime, there is still an acute food shortage at Linden. Some local items, like sugar and rice are back on the shelves, after having been absent for a long period. Cooking oil, soap, margarine, etc, are still short.

Picture shows a thoughtful section of the crowd that gathered at the Union Hall on Tuesday afternoon to listen to Guymine's package of proposals. Speaking to them at the time was Treasurer, Malcolm Thomson. The meeting was also addressed by GMWU General Secretary, Christopher James.

WPA Criticism of Government Management

Georgetown. OPEN WORD in English 22 Aug 83 p 3

[Text] Turned Into A Slum

WPA release of August 20, 1983: The ruling party has succeeded in transforming the bauxite industry of Guyana from a branch plant of multinationals into a bauxite slum. This is the result of 12 years of ill-informed political interference on the wrong questions and for all the wrong reasons. Since the establishment of the national company, it has been run by two Chief Executive Officers, both political appointees of the PNC Leader and both wholly incompetent to manage the enterprise.

The loss of the calcined bauxite monopoly inherited from the former owners and leadership in the world market in this product was a major development during the period of PNC ownership and control of the industry. This loss was due to the priority set on arms, luxury glitter and display at the national level and the low priority on the real needs of industry such as research, training, technology and quality control.

The regime has learned nothing from this massive failure.

The industry is now run from the Regional Office of the ruling party which has the last word in hiring, firing, discipline, technical and administrative decision making. On the occasion of the opening of their Fifth biennial Congress, PNC Chairman Ramsaroop promised more political interference in the management of enterprises in the future.

The PNC, as the WPA has said on previous occasions, lacks the authority to govern and enter into agreements with foreign capital, since it can guarantee nothing and has lost all capacity except for the use of force.

The decision to retrench 1700 skilled workers of the bauxite industry, at a time when it is said that the bauxite market is improving, marks a new stage of decline and will not solve the problems of the industry. It bears the stamp of the spiteful retaliation of the imposition of the three-day work week which followed the workers' legitimate food protests.

It is the view of the SPA that the TUC and its affiliates, in withholding all solidarity protest on behalf of the bauxite workers as they did in the case of the sugar workers in 1977, must bear some of the responsibility for this development.

Start of Cutbacks

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 23 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

GUYMINE will start implementing its decision to reduce its labour force with effect from today, according to reliable reports reaching Georgetown last night.

The reports said that in keeping with the Company's proposals which were outlined a week ago to the two unions representing workers in the bauxite industry, the unions were officially informed yesterday about the first batch of workers who will be affected in the phased exercise.

According to the of-

ficial notification, those whose services will not be required as from today are currently attached to the Green Construction Company at the East Montgomery Mine.

Guymine has indicated that it intends to reduce its labour force by 1 721 workers as part of its bid to cut back on its operating costs. Both management and non-management workers will be affected. Guymine has promised to provide the unions with advance lists of the workers to be affected.

The company is currently going through a very lean period due largely to the current global economic crisis which has resulted in a dramatic slump in demand for its products.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Manpower reported yesterday that it is setting up a committee which will be charged with the responsibility of interviewing the affected workers with a view to helping them find

alternative avenues of employment.

The committee will comprise representatives from the Central Recruitment and Manpower Agency (CRMA), Guymine's Industrial Relations Department, the Guyana Forestry Commission, the Public Service Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture.

Chief Labour Officer Oscar Moore, will head the committee.

Committee on Reemployment

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

THE Chief Labour Officer, Cde Oscar Moore has been appointed to head a nine-man committee which will look into new areas of occupation for retrenched workers in the Bauxite Industry.

The committee met for the first time yesterday at the Ministry of Manpower and Co-operatives and is expected to have another meeting shortly.

At the meeting Cde

Moore brought the members up-to-date with the terms of reference of the committee and informed them of the urgency of their task.

Some of the organisations that will be represented on the Committee are the Ministry of Manpower, Ministry of Agriculture, the Forestry Commission, the Public Service Ministry, Guystac and Guymine.

CSO: 3298/971

NICARAGUAN AMBASSADOR HAILS GUYANA'S SOLIDARITY

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

NICARAGUA'S first Ambassador to Guyana Javier Chamorro is satisfied with Guyana's vanguard role in support of and solidarity with Nicaragua's government of national reconstruction. The Nicaraguan diplomat who presented his credentials to Vice-President, Social Infrastructure, Steve Naraine, Thursday, extended "fraternal and revolutionary greetings" on behalf of the Sandinista Government.

He told Vice-President Naraine that it was the hope of his government that relations between Guyana and Nicaragua would be "concretised in a permanent exchange of political, economic and cultural experiences."

Central America, as well as Africa and the Middle East were passing through a complex situation characterised by the "concrete condition of exploitation and misery" and which threatened world peace and security, he said.

Chamorro, who is also his country's Permanent Representative to the United Nations, said Guyana and Nicaragua need to continue to unite their efforts in the arduous battle for world peace and the well-being of developing nations, particularly now that they share the serious responsibility of representing Latin America and the Caribbean in the United Nations Security Council.

And, in replying to the remarks made by the Nicaraguan diplomat who will be based in New York, Vice-President Naraine saluted the Nicaraguan people for their efforts to consolidate their revolution, in spite of tremendous odds.

The good relations between Guyana and Nicaragua are a fitting tribute to the principles of Non-Alignment, to the universal principles of non-intervention in the internal affairs of states and to respect for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of states.

Vice-President Naraine expressed confidence that the "mutuality of interests" and the "spirit of goodwill and co-operation that characterise existing relations will provide the necessary impetus for the exploration of new areas of co-operation for the mutual benefit" of the Nicaraguan and Guyanese peoples.

NEED FOR CONSULTATION WITH YOUNG WORKERS STRESSED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Aug 83 p 1

[Text]

LINDEN:— The need for consultation with young people, ideological education, training, strong industrial discipline, and industrial democracy at work sites were among a number of topics listed as essential for youths who become involved in the socio-economic development in Guyana.

This observation was made by Minister of Manpower and Co-operatives Kenneth Denny when he addressed the week long National Youth Seminar now in progress at the Mackenzie High School. Minister Denny, who is also a member of the TUC Executive Council, noted too that there was need for ongoing economic planning which must emphasise the involvement of young workers if they are to understand the importance of production and productivity and thus participate in exploiting Guyana's natural resources.

The Minister was among a number of top union officials who addressed the seminar which began on Sunday.

Others include TUC's President Samuel Walker, Critchlow

Labour College Principal T. Anson Sancho and officials from the two Linden-based bauxite unions.

The seminar involving participants from Essequibo, Berbice, Linden and Georgetown is being sponsored by the Trade Union Youth Movement (TUYM)

Its objective is, among other things to increase awareness and participation of young workers in trade union activities.

President George Daniels of the GPSU, Leslie Melville of the TUC and Kurt Augustus of the Caribbean Congress of Labour are among those expected to make presentations. The exercise closes today with an evaluation session and presentation of certificates to participants.

FIRST PHASE OF MMA IRRIGATION PROJECT COMMISSIONED

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Aug 83 pp 1, 8

[Text]

STAGE ONE of the first phase of the MMA drainage and irrigation project was commissioned Wednesday afternoon without the pomp and ceremony that usually accompany the opening of a project of that magnitude in many other nations.

This phase includes the irrigation canal, which according to the Dutch contractor, Mr. Jan Hinkema, "is the longest distance you can have in my country." It covers an area larger than Barbados or Antigua, and that excludes the 128-square mile conservancy, itself an area larger than the island of Grenada.

But, according to President Burnham, this is but the beginning. The project has two other phases involving similar work to control the Mahaicony and Mahaica rivers. All indications, however, are that these two phases will not be as fortunate as the first one, in receiving external financing.

The simple and serious ceremony set the mood for the approach needed to raise locally, the money needed for the completion of the entire Mahaica / Mahaicony / Abary drainage and irrigation project.

Guyanese engineers will have to undertake

the brunt of the work, probably without any foreign technical assistance. There should be no fear of the quality of work to be put out, and the President said that he was heartened by the recommendations given in relation to the Guyanese workers, by the foreign contractor and consultant.

The United States Government, with more than a 30 per cent voting power at the loaning agency, the Inter-American Development Bank, has indicated its intention to block any further loans to the MMA project.

The situation seems bleak even with a Guyanese representative at the bank. The President congratulated Cde. Joe Tyndall during his feature presentation on Wednesday, for being involved in the project from two sides. Firstly, Cde. Tyndall was Minister of Agriculture where he had overall responsibility for the project, and secondly he is now amongst those officials of the IDB, who look into the funding of such projects. But, the President noted that Cde. Tyndall's attempts at representing the cause for continued assistance to the MMA is tantamount to "arguing with the deaf."

REGIONS TOLD TO PRODUCE THEIR OWN BUILDING MATERIALS

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 19 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

INDIVIDUAL Regions should seek to establish their own facilities to produce building materials from indigenous resources, delegates to the current Fifth Biennial Congress of the People's National Congress (PNC) have decided.

Some 3 000 delegates meeting in the Sophia auditorium arrived at an approval vote for a motion from Region Six — East Berbice-Corentyne — urging that the Congress advise Regions to set up claybrick factories, mobile sawmills and similar operations.

The motion, before amendment, referred only to claybrick and timber production but Vice-President, Administration, Cde Desmond Hoyte, pointed out that any building material available in the respective Regions should be utilised.

He referred with praise to Region Nine — Upper Essequibo-Upper Takutu — where public buildings, have been constructed from Regionally-produced claybricks, timber and using thatched roofing.

A second section of the motion which was presented late Wednesday night in an extended session of the

Congress, recommended that a larger percentage of the nation's resources be made available to the housing drive.

Cde Hoyte explained that such an allocation should come from the national savings, such as those actually accumulated through insurance companies.

Other motions which were related to the housing sector included proposals that development and allocation of land for housing in the Strathavon area of the Demerara-Mahaica Region be expedited.

Further motions included recommendations for the provision of such facilities as roads and potable water to housing areas as well as recommendations for assistance to new agricultural-residential settlers, and provision of title, transport or leases to landholders at Vergenoegen Land Development Scheme.

GOLD PURCHASING 'CONFUSED'; GOVERNMENT ADOPTS INCENTIVES

Problem of Brazilian Trade

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 28 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

BRAZILIAN traders have been buying gold openly on the black market in Georgetown at \$3,000 - \$3,300 per oz. The official price based on the world market price, varies between \$900 and \$1,400 an oz.

Legally, all gold mined in Guyana should be sold to the gold board and a royalty of five per cent paid.

Jewellers are required to obtain their supplies from the Board.

So little gold, however, has been turned in to the Board that it has closed the doors of its pretentious office in the Bank of Guyana building and taken up humble quarters in the Geological Survey building on Brickdam.

This situation has been brought about largely by Government's policy of trading with Brazil for Guyana dollars.

Millions of dollars have been taken across the Brazilian border in suitcases and other containers by public and private hucksters to purchase margarine, chicken, oil, tyres, spare parts and many other commodities.

The dollars received by the Boa Vista traders are sent back to Guyana to purchase gold.

One of their buyers is set up in a leading city hotel.

About the time of the IMF visit the Gold and Diamond Miners Association were reported on the radio to have offered to sell to the Board each month 36 ozs. of gold at \$2,000 an oz. each month for each dredge that was operating.

In return the miners were said to be asking for 20 per cent of the price in foreign currency and to be allowed to bring in the necessary spare parts for their dredges.

The offer to the Board in fact was reported by the Association to be between 20 and 30 ozs. of gold a month.

With an average of 100 dredges in operation, the Board would receive 2,500 ozs of gold a month, thus providing Government with some much needed foreign exchange.

The IMF were reportedly not impressed, for with the black market price so much higher than the price offered, the Board could hardly expect the miners to sell to it, the Board, rather than to the Brazilians.

In an effort to reduce the amount of gold going to Brazil, Government three weeks ago issued a circular forbidding "as with immediate effect" all state institutions from making purchases from Brazil with Guyana dollars.

This would reduce the trade by at least half, unless other agencies increase their purchases. Private hucksters are still trading and flights to the Rupununi are still hard to obtain because of the Boa Vista trade.

Observers say that the black market trade will continue unabated.

Deputy Prime Minister of Barbados told a press conference after the recent Caricom Heads Meeting, reported in the Express of July 14, "If black mar-

ket operators out of Guyana were not able to take basic commodities from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago, Suriname and Brazil into their homeland, there would have been a revolution in Guyana".

He denied President Burnham's claim that US\$10m a month was being smuggled into Barbados.

What is clear is that the Guyana Government has no clear policy for dealing with the situation and the whole economy is in confusion.

Government Actions

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 4 Sep 83 pp 1, 16

[Text]

GOVERNMENT has announced wide-ranging concessions and measures aimed at encouraging maximum production in the gold and diamond industry and at persuading miners to sell all their produce to the Guyana Gold Board.

The steps were announced by Minister of Energy and Mines Harun Rashid as a result of discussions held with the Guyana Gold and Diamond Miners' Association "on the price of gold which should be paid by the Gold Board for gold sold to it by miners."

Miners will benefit from an increase in the price paid them by the Board. They will get Government assistance to acquire spares and equipment, as well as loans from the Guyana Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank and they will benefit from infrastructure development and improved transportation facilities.

With immediate effect following the announcement, the Gold

Board will pay miners, in Guyana dollars, a price which is 4.9 times the United States dollar denomination price for each ounce of gold sold to it by miners.

For example, if the price of gold on the world market is \$415 (US) per ounce, then the Gold Board shall pay to the miners \$2033.50. Similarly, if the price of gold on the world market is \$450 (US) per ounce, then the Gold Board shall pay \$2205 per ounce to miners.

Apart from the increase in price, these other measures were announced.

(1) The importation of mining equipment and spares will be made possible through the retention of up to 20 per cent (twenty per cent) of the foreign exchange derived from the sale of gold in a special account administered by the Bank of Guyana. Miners entitlement to equipment and spares will be directly related to their sale of gold to the Guyana Gold Board.

- (2) A more effective system of distribution of food and supplies to miners is being instituted and will be coordinated by the Minister of Energy and Mines.
- (3) Sections of roads in the gold and diamond mining areas in the hinterland will be upgraded to facilitate easier access to those areas. The Guyana Airways Corporation has already announced the improvement of the flow of traffic to the hinterland areas and will be constantly reviewing these initiatives in order that the mining community could be more adequately serviced by air transport.
- (4) The Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK) has been granted approval to entertain from miners applications for financial assistance for mining projects. Such applications would be subject to the scrutiny of the Geology and Mines (Commission) which will assist Gaibank in the supervision of the projects which have been beneficiaries of financial assistance from the Bank.
- (5) To increase the convenience of the mining community, the Guyana Gold Board has been removed to the same premises occupied by the Geology and Mines Commission, so that miners could declare their gold, pay their royalty, and sell their gold and receive payment in one easy continuous transaction.
- (6) All persons who contribute in any way to a legitimate seizure of gold and diamond from anyone who is in breach of the Mining Act and Regulations and the Gold Board Act, will be entitled to share in a reward of up to 20 per cent of the value of the gold and/or diamonds which may be so seized.
- (7) All claims have not been beneficially occupied by miners from which gold and/or diamonds have not been declared over a consistently long period, will be revoked, and the claimholder whose claims have been revoked will not be permitted to relocate claims for one year.
- (8) The Mining Amendment Bill which is currently before Parliament will make it necessary for all mechanical mining equipment (including dredges) to be registered, and it makes provision for punitive action to be taken against individuals who do not comply with the Mining Act and Regulations and the Gold Board Act, and those who are accessories to the illegal movement of gold and diamonds.

BRAZILIAN FIRM CONSULTED ON INCREASED GOLD PRODUCTION

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 21 Aug 83 p 16

[Text]

THE Guyana Government is now in discussion with a Brazilian firm and hopes to tie up an agreement shortly for joint gold mining operations in Guyana.

This was disclosed by Energy and Mines Minister, Harun Rashid during the current PNC Fifth Biennial Congress. Cde. Rashid was responding to a question about the government's plans to set up its own company to mine gold as a means of easing foreign exchange problems.

The Minister explained that the government, through the Guyana Geology and Mines Commission (GGMC) and the Guyana National Service (GNS), is engaged in gold mining, although returns are small.

The Minister disclosed that apart from the discussions with the Brazilian company, the Government plans to have discussion with Bulgarian and Romanian officials on further joint ventures in the gold industry.

There is also a plan, the Minister said, for Guyminac, the GGMC and another overseas company, to mine gold in

a part of the hinterland.

Cde. Rashid, acknowledging the important role gold should play in the national economy, lamented the low sales of gold to the Guyana Gold Board, the authorised purchaser of raw gold in Guyana.

The Gold Board, in its first year, he said, was able to buy only \$2.5 million worth of gold. He said Guyana produces \$75 million in gold annually.

He stated that increased sales of gold to the official purchaser would help greatly in reducing the problems miners face in securing equipment and other inputs for the gold industry which have to be imported.

Meanwhile, the government has already initiated an important measure for the development of the industry. According to Minister Rashid, the Guyana Co-operative Agricultural and Industrial Development Bank (GAIBANK) has agreed in discussions with the Ministry that it will consider applications by gold miners for investment funds to be used in the industry.

SEVEN-YEAR PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT REPORTED

Details of Plan

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 30 Aug 83 p 4

[Text]

A TWIN thrust in agricultural development must be undertaken in Guyana in order to diversify agriculture, raise local standards of living and sustain agricultural growth.

This is a major proposal of the "Directional Framework for Agricultural Development 1983-1990" prepared by the Agriculture Ministry.

The document identifies the two approaches to agriculture as:

- Expansion in the sum output of basic commodities to meet immediate needs for food and fibre and

- Development of a national foundation for diversifying production of export-oriented commodities or others which, produced on a large scale, can have a significant effect on the economy.

As regards the first goal, the report notes that "small farmers of the coastal plains and lower riverain areas have always produced significant amounts of basic commodities other than sugar" and "this category of farmers is perceived as continuing to produce such commodities on an expanded

scale to meet the immediate national needs."

However, the report states: "The immediate expansion in production must be of primary concern and must be catalysed by the regional administration."

The first task therefore, the report concludes, is to ensure the consolidation and at least maintenance of gains achieved in the existing production systems. The regional administration must then seek to create opportunities and encourage greater production by acting to maintain drainage and irrigation, availability of key inputs including tools, farm-to-market logistics, realistic guaranteed minimum prices, simple agricultural credit, and technological support, among other things.

The report also recommends that emphasis be placed on crops now commonly grown in the regions, and their expansion and optimisation using traditional technology. Further recommendations are for the introduction of grading and packing systems while ensuring immediate farmer-training

in handling, packing and storing export commodities, and the formulation of regional production programmes using the planning capability of the Agriculture Ministry and the State Planning Secretariat.

It is also recommended that schoolchildren be more fully involved in the production process, re-arranging where necessary academic school hours and vacation periods, particularly at planting and harvest time.

Other recommendations of the report are the encouragement and development of marketing centres, established and managed by regional administrations and then ceded to production groups or co-operatives. Regional administrations should also establish five to ten-hectare farms as demonstration sites for involving local regional workers in agricultural production.

The report stressed that Guyana must diversify agricultural production to minimise the impact of vagaries of international markets, reduce dependence on the rice-sugar base, and

foster national development.

"The foundation can be established now to ensure that a similar crisis never again occurs," the report recommends. A number of systems should therefore be put in place, including:

Appropriate technology for selected important crops.

Necessary infrastructure, and

Local and international marketing systems.

The report said certain selected commodities have been identified for development into commercial systems in selected regions. Among these commodities are cassava, coconut, cowpea, cotton, oil palm, cattle, dairy products, soybean, peanut, sorghum, corn and plantain.

(GNA)

Regions Affected

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 31 Aug 83 p 3

[Text]

FOUR areas of the country have been selected for national emphasis in the production of particular crops and commodities under the seven-year agricultural development plan.

The areas are:— The coastal plains and lower riverain areas, covering Regions Two to Six, — the intermediate savannahs, located in Region Ten, the Rupununi savannahs in Region Nine, and — the Matarkai-Wauna-Yarakita area of Region Ten.

Crops and commodities recommended for

national emphasis in the plan prepared by the Agriculture Ministry are sugar, rice, coconuts, oil palm, dairy products, beef and annual crops such as cotton, cowpea, soybean, peanuts, sorghum and cassava, in rotation with grass-legume pastures.

According to the "directional framework" for agriculture 1983-1990, recommendations for emphasis are based on population density, compatibility of particular crops with the area, and existence of infrastructure and programmes with expansion potential. — (GNA).

Privileges for CARDI

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 26 Aug 83 p 8

[Text]

THE Caribbean Agricultural Research Development Institute (CARDI) has been granted privileges and immunities such as those

accorded to other regional and international organisations based in Guyana.

These privileges and immunities are in keeping with criteria set out by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CARDI now has the legal capacity to transact business, own property, and have official communication in Guyana.

This regional body now also has certain immigration and resident facilities. It is the first such allowance granted to CARDI in Caricom. It was submitted as a proposal to the Guyana Government by the Executive Director of CARDI, Mr. Joe Bergasse, some months ago. The agreement was signed yesterday, and

became fully functional from that time.

In picture, Vice-President Production, Cde Hamilton Green, signs the agreement on behalf of the Guyana Government while standing from left are Dr. Pat McKenzie, Guyana's representative on the CARDI board of Directors, Cde Gavin KENNARD, Chairman of the Board of Directors of CARDI who signed the agreement on behalf of the organisation; and Dr. Gordon Mueller, head of the Guyana branch of CARDI. The signing took place in the office of the Vice-President at the Ministry of agriculture.

Copra Situation

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 20 Aug 83 p 9

[Text]

SINCE the opening of the National Edible Oil Company Limited (NEOCOL) in February this year, copra producers have received an even higher demand for their product. This demand is to the tune of 25 000 tonnes.

If this demand is met, 12 000 tonnes of refined edible oil will be on the local market annually, surpassing the national demand of 8 000 tonnes annually.

NEOCOL, alone however, does not take up the entire copra demand; it is joined by the two other oil refineries, Wieting and Richter and Maharaja Oil Mills.

During a press tour of NEOCOL at Farm on the East Bank of Demerara yesterday, it was explained that this nationally owned company, a subsidiary of the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation, gets only

up to 5 tonnes of copra per month, mainly from Hope Estate. In addition, it has to date received 33 982 gallons of crude oil from St. Vincent for refining.

Refined oil is also produced from rice bran, and crude palm oil supplied by Guyana Sugar Corporation, the seeds from that palm, and to a very limited extent, the seeds from some wild nuts.

General Manager, Lionel Sears, explained that this combination will produce only 1 000 tonnes annually unless the copra supply is drastically increased.

Copra is in high demand because it has an oil yield of 60 per cent, while the oil palm seed has 47 per cent, and the rice bran a lowly 12 per cent.

Another reason for this high copra demand is that extracting oil from the non-traditional nuts

is difficult in the first stage because of the technical adjustments needed for obtaining the kernels.

NEOCOL refines oil mainly from copra, rice bran, cotton seed, crude palm oil and its seed...

Factory technicians have developed a machine for extracting the kernel of the cotton seed, and are hoping to do the same for the non-traditional nuts.

By-products of NEOCOL include margarine, fatty acids, stockfeed from de-oiled rice bran and copra, soap stock for soap manufacture, and a wax that is being tested for use on cars.

Sugar Output

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 4 Sep 83 p 9

[Text]

THE Sugar industry continues to suffer from adverse weather conditions and compounded by strikes during the week, production achievement was only 6 885 tons or 64.1 per cent of the estimate of 10 715 tons sugar.

A one-day strike across the sugar belt on Monday 83-08-29 seriously affected production operations and together with other sporadic work stoppages during the week accounted for the loss of 214 grinding hours.

The prevailing unsettled

conditions has severely curtailed the crop's performance as the industry so far has made only 38 475 tons sugar which represent an achievement of 63.76 per cent of the crop estimate at week ending 83-09-03. The year's Total has reached 124 570 tons.

No estate has achieved a placement on the Guysuco's Production Honours Roll but Diamond which made 81.6 per cent of its target of 980 tons has been singled out for creditable performance.

CSO: 3298/023

FOOD CRISIS CONTINUES TO HOLD POLITICAL SPOTLIGHT

Human Rights Group Report

Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 28 Aug 83 pp 1, 3

[Text]

IN A 54-PAGE REPORT just out, the Guyana Human Rights Association (GHRA) states that the dominant feature of life in Guyana during the 12 months covered by the Report has been the shortage of food.

"A critical situation was created in April 1982, when the government added wheat flour to a long list of foodstuffs it would no longer allow to be imported".

This has given rise to human rights violations in matters of nutrition, health, the conduct of the courts, trade union activity and an adequate standard of living, the Report says.

The government's arguments that Guyanese must develop tastes for foodstuffs which are locally produced, GHRA says, must be seen in the light of a study prepared by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), which found that for the foreseeable future Guyana cannot produce enough to feed itself.

In fact, GHRA says, food pro-

duction is decreasing at a rapid rate.

Milk production in 1968 was 4.7m gals. a day, by 1978 it had fallen to 2.7m gals., a decrease of 56%.

Beef production has fallen by 2.3m pounds in the six years since 1977, a 30% drop.

Poultry production has fallen 64% between 1981 and 1983.

Pork supplies fell by 20% between 1981 and 1982 and are expected to fall a further 20% by the end of 1983.

The only significant increases in production are those recorded for plantains, ground provisions and shrimp fishing.

However, 5.1m of the 7.2m lbs. of shrimp caught in 1982, was exported.

The GHRA quotes the argument against the restriction of wheat imports that if greater efforts were directed towards expanding rice exports, the additional foreign exchange earned would enable wheat exports to be sustained.

It, however, goes further and suggests a better solution. It points out that much foreign exchange is lost through rice being illegally exported as would cover the cost of imported wheat flour.

"If similar vigilance to that being asserted over the quantities of wheat flour being smuggled into the country were applied to rice being smuggled out of the country, the cost of wheat flour imports could be resolved immediately", the Report states.

Its argument is based on an USAID report presented in June

1982, that the minimum of 'leakage' (smuggling) of rice each year is 10% of production.

Using the 1981 figures, the last year when full supplies of wheat were imported costing G\$27.5m the rice smuggled could have brought in G\$24.5m, just G\$3m less than the sum spent on wheat.

School Food Decision

Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 28 Aug 83 p 1

[Text] THE Guyana Government has taken a firm decision to change the formula for the production of biscuits intended for distribution to the nation's nursery school children.

In keeping with this decision, biscuits for the Government's school feeding programme will be made with rice flour instead of with wheat flour and wheat--soya blend as was originally intended under a 1980 proposal in which the Government had agreed to embark upon a school feeding programme in co-operation with the UN World Food Programme (WFP).

"The Government of Guyana has taken an unequivocal decision for food self-reliance and as a result the formula for production of the biscuits is being changed to maximise the use of locally produced commodities", the government has explained.

The formula for the biscuits is being developed by the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Health under the direction of Drs. L. Chin and C. Harry, to ensure that the highest nutritional values are provided in the product.

The Guyana Government has already discussed with the World Food Programme a revised concept of the project.

In the meantime, a shipment of wheat flour and wheat-soya blend has arrived under the original programme and the government is currently seeking the concurrence of the WFP to dispose of the shipment to the two local biscuit companies to be combined with rice flour for the production of biscuits.

Government's submission to the World Food Programme will involve an increase in the quantities of dried skim milk and edible fats to replace wheat flour and wheat-soya blend.

The Government has decided to accelerate and expand the school feeding programme, for nursery school children which is currently limited to the provision of milk to approximately 2,000 children.--(GNA).

Criticism of Government Action

Georgetown OPEN WORD in English 29 Aug 83 p 2

[Editorial]

[Text] A Guyana News Agency release on the government's decision to produce rice flour biscuits for nursery school children shows clearly the methods by which the Guyanese people and their children are being governed.

The GNA, which can be fairly called a news agency serving the PNC and the PNC only, enlightened us as follows: The government school feeding programme, limited to some nursery schools, will no longer use the wheat-soya blend flour for biscuits. In line with the policy of "food self-sufficiency" the formula for the biscuits "is being changed to maximise the use of locally produced commodities". It adds that the formula for the new biscuits is now BEING DEVELOPED by the Guyana Pharmaceutical Corporation in collaboration with the Ministry of Health.

OPEN WORD is not questioning the competence in their fields of the two officers named. We are certain that our scientific personnel are fully competent to do what others can do and have done provided they have the materials and equipment. What OPEN WORD does question is this - the existing formula for a children's food is banned on the grounds of food patriotism before the new formula is fully developed and tested. Even when the officers arrive at the point when they have a formula that they can defend in good conscience, there is still the question of the ongoing supply of raw materials for that formula.

Our technical officers are not free and have not been free to do what they think right for a long time. Vice President Ramsaroop, in his speech to the PNC's 5th Congress hinted that state business was to come under greater control by the ruling party. The outworn Chinese method of "politics in control" is what Mr Ramsaroop was describing.

Some of our scientific officers do not have the strength to resist the bullying of the political misdirectors who will say, "We are responsible to the people, not you". One of the officers named, Dr Chin, has been described over the radio as the President's "godson". In a country where technical and scientific officers have no journal of their own, where they are not free to differ or express differences with the ministers, it will be hard for the public to know whether the formula which is arrived at is one in which they believe and can truly recommend, or one which is dictated by the ruling Minister.

It is on this second point that questions may be justly raised.

OPEN WORD is not impressed by this method of government. One formula for a children's food is discarded before a new one has been developed. This is the shoot-first and ask-questions-later spirit.

Is this not the same spirit that ruined the bauxite industry, that messed up the power industry, that ran into problems in the hydro project, that is bringing sugar to ruins?

Is it not the same mentality that caused child deaths in the PHG children's ward to rise by 49% between December 1981 and November 1982?

Can we stand any more of it?

Boost for Rice Flour

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Sep 83 p 1

[Text] CONTINENTAL Biscuit Company said it will do its best, along with the Toronto-based Diversified Research Laboratories Limited, to maximise the use of rice flour in consort with the national thrust. The rice flour is being mixed with wheat flour.

The statement by Managing-Director Wainwright McKenzie was issued when the company resumed production after an eight-week shutdown.

The Chronicle learnt that Continental is one of two companies which have benefited from wheat flour supplies received by the Guyana Government from the European Economic Community. The other is Wieting and Richter.

Mr. McKenzie said that after a shutdown of approximately eight weeks, the company is once again endeavouring to provide the nation with a reasonable supply of both sweetened and unsweetened biscuits.

According to McKenzie the factory is operating 14 hours a day after recommencing a fortnight ago.

Reliable sources said that Continental received some 5000 bags of imported flour and other imported raw materials through the Government arrangement.

Mr. McKenzie's statement said the company is also engaged in developing a formula for the manufacture of crackers and cookies using the locally milled rice flour, from which vanilla cookies were successfully made in the past.

Biscuits made by Continental since the resumption of operations are already on the market.

Cut in Rice Board Intake

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Sep 83 p 8

[Text] THE Guyana Rice Board is di-satisfied with the system which allows private rice millers to sell their rice directly to the local market instead of to the Board.

One of the foremost reasons for this dissatisfaction is that the GRB rice intake has been severely reduced.

General Manager of the Board, Cde Leon Dundas, has complained that of the 164 mills operating in the country, only 12 are milling rice for that corporation. Further he said the board sells 3,500 tons of rice monthly on the local market, and it is under terrific strain to meet this demand.

In an effort to correct this situation, the Board has met with a number of millers, hoping to persuade them to sell their rice to this central body. These millers have been assured of prompt payment whenever rice is delivered.

There have been allegations that rice millers are abusing the privilege of selling their rice on the local market. It is claimed that much of the rice is not reaching the local market, but is being smuggled out of the country. In addition the rice that does reach the local market is substandard because of the absence of a central grading body, like the one which operated when all rice was sold through the GRB.

Cde Dundas explained recently that the Board carries out monthly checks on the quantity of rice produced by millers, and thereby knows how much to expect on the local market. He said that if this amount was not reflected on the local market it could be assumed that there was a malpractice. A number of millers and owners of ocean-going vessels are under police investigation for allegedly smuggling rice out of the country, he added.

Other Rice Board Problems

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 3 Sep 83 p 8

[Text]

THE Guyana Rice Board is having difficulty obtaining spare parts for machinery in the rice industry, but is taking steps to ensure that a high quality of rice is maintained for its local and overseas markets.

GRB General Manager, Cde Leon Dundas, said on Thursday that the Board is inspecting silo sites and other areas for drying and storing paddy. He added that to meet the present situation paddy will be received only in efficiently functioning sections of silos. In addition, more of this grain will be dried on drying floors.

He explained that the GRB silos were facing storage problems

because the mills responsible for taking off the silos' paddy-load were not functioning to capacity. He further stated that rice farmers overloaded the silos in the rainy season with paddy of a high moisture content because the drying floors and roads could not be used during that time.

On a note of commendation to the farmers, Cde Dundas said that they were making every effort to produce more rice and were using the new high yielding plant variety, DIWANI. This variety produces 35 to 40 bags per acre as compared to the average 23 bags per acre obtained from previous varieties.

The GRB research station is hard pressed to increase seed production to meet the farmers' demand for this variety.

LIBYAN FARMING PROJECT ADVANCES; DPRK GIVES ASSISTANCE

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 20 Aug 83 pp 4-5

[Text]

THE area being utilised by the Guyana-Libya Arab Agricultural Development Company in the Mahaica-Mahaicony-Abary (MMA) area, does not form part of the project area for which IDB funding is currently being sought by the Guyana Government; officials of the Ministry of Agriculture have explained.

The officials at the Agriculture Ministry explained Thursday that to date, some 1 250 acres (500 hectares) of land had been allocated to the Guyana-Libya Agri Company but all the drainage and irrigation works for that area have already been provided through the collaboration by the government and people of Guyana and the government of the Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK). That scheme was completed about two years ago.

The area being utilised by the Guyana-Libya company, the officials explained further, already has its own drainage and irrigation

facilities and does not and will not have to rely on the irrigation and drainage facilities of the Abary River water control project.

The reported contention of the US officials in Georgetown is seen here as a somewhat puzzling "new reason" being advanced for the United States' decision to block the loan.

In Washington, itself, senior officials of the US administration have been giving conflicting reasons for the administration's decision to veto the loan. These reasons have varied from unexplained "technical and economic policy considerations" to "dissatisfaction" with Guyana's macro-economic policies. Senior US administration officials have also even denied that the United States intended vetoing the loan.

Officials of the Guyana Government have contended however that the US government's reasons are purely "political" and certainly not "economic".

BRIEFS

BAUXITE TRADE WITH JAPAN--BIDCO of Guyana is presently involved in a barter deal with Nissholwai of Japan. Guyana will ship a large quantity of calcined bauxite in exchange for 142 Datsun vehicles between now and year end, according to informed sources. The vehicles, which will come in three shipments, will consist of: 92 saloon cars; 48 buses and 2 trucks. The first shipment of vehicles left Japan around Aug. 3 and is expected to arrive shortly. It will consist of: 30 saloon cars; 10 trucks; and- 2 buses. The other shipments are expected in September and October. The bauxite will also be sent in three shipments, the sources say. [Georgetown CATHOLIC STANDARD in English 21 Aug 83 p 2]

WHEAT SHIPMENT--A TOTAL of 1 800 bags of wheat flour which arrived in Guyana recently will be used for the manufacture of biscuits. According to a senior official of the Ministry of Agriculture, the funds generated from the sale of the wheat flour to the biscuit manufacturers will be utilised for supporting an agricultural pilot project in the Upper Berbice River area in keeping with an agreement between the Guyana Government and the World Food Programme. The agreement between the Government and the WFP was signed last year. The arrangement for the sale of the flour to the biscuit manufacturers is similar to that which exists for wheat flour from the EEC. The pilot project in the upper Berbice river area is intended to increase the production and incomes of an estimated 450 families currently engaged in subsistence farming. Crops to be cultivated include bananas, plantains, peanuts, corn and sweet potatoes. Meanwhile, in keeping with the agreement, the WFP will also be making edible oil and pulses. [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 21 Aug 83 p 3]

YOUTH SEMINAR--THE representative of the Caribbean Congress of Labour and the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Cde. Curtis Augustus arrived in the country on Saturday to participate in a National Youth Seminar to be opened in Linden today. The seminar is being sponsored by the CCL and the ICFUT in collaboration with the Trade Union Youth Movement, the youth arm of the Guyana Trades Union Congress. Cde. Augustus is expected to be in the country for one week. Cde. Joseph Pollydore, General Secretary of the Guyana Trades Union Congress is expected to deliver the main address at the opening of the conference. [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 p 5]

ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING--THE environmental impact and implication of the M-M-A Agricultural Development Authority is among topics to be covered during an

Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) training course opening today, at the Park Hotel. Over 25 participants from government ministries, departments and the University of Guyana will be participating in the five-day course, which also includes field visits to the MMA-ADA and the Anarika area in the Essequibo. Other topics to be dealt with include the environmental impact of man's activities on the forest resources of Guyana, and the place of EIA in developmental planning. Overseas resource persons from Mexico, the United States, Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela are also to be involved in the Programme, which has been organised by the Local Man and the Biosphere Committee, in collaboration with the NSRCs Environment Research and Information Unit and UC's Extra Mural Department. UNESCO, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) have assisted in obtaining the services of these resource persons. Meanwhile, Vice-President, Production, Hamilton Green, will participate in the opening session. Dr. Eugene Laurent, Principal Medical Officer (Environment) of Trinidad and Tobago will deliver the keynote address at tomorrow's opening session. [Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 22 Aug 83 p 3]

PPP RESIGNATION--Cde Dalchand, one of the most valuable supporters of the Minority People's Progressive Party (PPP), has resigned as a member of the National Assembly. Cde Dalchand's resignation was announced during last Wednesday's session of the Assembly. He first entered the National Assembly on May 24, 1976, and remained a member until his resignation Wednesday. [Text] [Georgetown SUNDAY CHRONICLE in English 4 Sep 83 p 1]

BAUXITE PRODUCTION--Georgetown, Mon., (CANA): GUYANA'S state-owned bauxite industry, hit by a six-week strike within the last two months, produced a total of 654,596 tonnes of bauxite up to August 16, the Guyana Mining Enterprise (GUYMINE) said. The company said its operations in Berbice county exported 264,482 tonnes during this period. No information on exports from the Linden operations has been released for two weeks and a GUYMINE official declined to give a reason. GUYMINE reported that by August 13 the Linden plant had processed a total of 352,613 tonnes of the ore. The Linden operations produced 176,641 tonnes of calcined bauxite and 175,972 tonnes of metal grade bauxite. The company said the M. V. Alexander Schutz, sailed on August 12 with 4,075 tonnes of calcined bauxite for the United Kingdom and 9,312 tonnes of calcined bauxite. During the period August 10 to 16 the Berbice operations processed 4,325 tonnes of chemical grade bauxite, 7,900 tonnes of metal grade bauxite and 2,150 tonnes of abrasive grade bauxite, making a total production for that period of 14,375 tonnes. During the same period the Berbice operations exported 3,828 tonnes of abrasive grade bauxite and 4,458 tonnes of metal grade bauxite, making a total of 8,286 tonnes of bauxite. [Text] [Port-of-Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 30 Aug 83 p 5]

U.S. NAVAL VESSELS SAID SPYING IN NATIONAL WATERS

Encounters With Nicaraguan Vessels

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Sep 83 pp 1-A, 10-A

[Article by Mario Ruiz Redondo]

[Excerpt] Nanchital, Vera Cruz, 6 September--U.S. warships have been spying in Mexican waters since the beginning of the year. Mexico's merchant ships are being besieged by the U.S. Coast Guard ships, whose mission is to observe the cargo that is being shipped from our country to Central America.

Jorge Efren Quiroz Miranda, marine captain at the service of the Coatzacoalcos Shipping Company and whose ship--"Esteban's"--was stormed by Sandinist military units of Nicaraguan Coast Guard on 16 August, adds:

"It is inexplicable how our government can permit espionage by the United States in national waters. Nine months ago I was sailing before Chiltepec, on the route Coatzacoalcos-Costa Rica, when a few kilometers before Cozumel we were approached by a U.S. Coast Guard ship that trailed us just a few meters away.

"For 20 minutes, we were subject to observation. The gringo sailors observed our boat with excessive attention using binoculars and after a time we became concerned. Just as we were at the point of asking the Mexican patrol boats to assist us, they abandoned their siege and left at great speed."

He comments that this situation, which is repeated in a similar manner throughout the Caribbean Basin and is accentuated by the joint military operations of the United States and Honduras, has created an uneasy climate among those who have the responsibility of carrying out transport tasks from national ports to the Central America area.

Quiroz Miranda asserts that any vessel that plows the waves of the Caribbean is subject to investigation by the U.S. Coast Guard.

"That occurs only in that zone," he said, "because nowhere else in the world, except in security areas, does that situation occur. As a sailor and a

captain, I have had the opportunity to travel to many parts of the planet and I never had an experience like that which we are living through in the region."

Sandinist Assault on "Esteban's"

"It happened on Tuesday, 16 August. It was 12:58. Our position was 14 degrees 58 minutes and 12 seconds north latitude and 83 degrees 1 minute longitude. We were sailing exactly in Nicaraguan territorial waters near the Honduran border.

"Everything was going normally. We had left the port of Moín, in Costa Rica. Suddenly, two fishing boats crossed our path--'Pescasa 26' and 'Pescasa 27.' I immediately ordered a change of course.

"Both the crew and I put ourselves in a state of alert in view of the unexpected action. We could see that aboard the two boats there were several individuals dressed in olive green who began to threaten us with their weapons, some automatic weapons that they carried by hand and some others mounted on the roofs. Suddenly, one of the vessels approached us and came along the starboards side of the 'Esteban's' and four individuals jumped across onto our deck."

The captain from the Coatzacoalcos Shipping Company, who is lending his services to PEMEX, continues the account in his command cabin:

"Suddenly, we found ourselves confronted by four individuals, all of them with automatic weapons. One of them remained on deck, threatening, while the others came to the command cabin. They aimed their weapons at me and demanded of me identification and information about the cargo.

"Despite the tension and a certain amount of fear on our part, once we satisfied their demands they allowed me to ask them to identify themselves, and they told me that they were with the Sandinist Coast Guard and that they did not identify themselves with anyone.

"Of course we did not insist further. Again pointing their weapons at me, they forced me to take them to our hold. There they realized that the material that we were carrying consisted of oil drilling equipment.

"We had to explain to them that it involved cargo belonging to PEMEX that we had gone to pick up in Costa Rica, a country that is receiving advice from Mexico in exploration for possible petroleum deposits."

Was the "Esteban's" flying the Mexican flag when it was taken by storm?

"No, we did not have it up. When sailing, it is not raised unless necessary. Therefore, when we were intercepted, I ordered that our national flag be raised immediately so that the soldiers who were attacking us could know our nationality. It was not any use.

"It was 20 very difficult minutes. While the three individuals checked out the goods that we were transporting, others posted on the decks of the boats watched us with unfriendly faces. Once their mission was completed, they told us that we could continue our course.

"A little after the incident, now in Honduran waters, a navy patrol boat of this country came up on us from behind and stayed there, at a distance of close to 2 km, while we sailed in territorial waters.

Statement by Senate Leader

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Sep 83 pp 1-A, 9-A

[Article by Aurelio Ramos M.]

[Excerpt] Mexico should send a protest to the U.S. government through diplomatic channels if the charge of U.S. espionage against our country's ships is proved, Senate leader Miguel Gonzales Avelar stated yesterday.

And Senator Rafael Herrera Morales, president of the Marine Commission, condemned that country's practice of besieging Mexican ships in our own national waters, and he said: "The United States should stop interfering where it does not belong...."

In a news conference and breakfast, Gonzalez Avelar responded in the affirmative to the question of whether the Senate, which by constitutional mandate shares responsibility for foreign policy, should demand an investigation in regard to the charges of spying and of whether it is fitting that Mexico protest through diplomatic channels. "Yes," he said sharply.

He also referred to the statements by the National Democratic Policy Committee that the U.S. government is providing economic support to the National Action Party with the goal of destabilizing the government of Miguel de la Madrid.

"The mere possibility that a political party might think of accepting the assistance, protection or aid of some foreign government or organization ought to deserve the most drastic reprobation and condemnation of all Mexicans," he said, adding that our nationalism is not hostile but it is very conscious of the risks involved in seeking foreign assistance. "History shows the enormous risks involved in an attitude of this sort."

He emphasized that the seeking of foreign support is reprehensible from any point of view, because the parties should have a deep-rooted patriotism. Even in the case of ordinary citizens, the seeking of foreign political support is inadmissible, he emphasized.

Herrera Morales, naval mechanical engineer, said in turn that the Mexican government should carry out a detailed investigation to prove the truth of the spying charge and, if necessary, it should take its protest to all international forums.

The United States is probably very concerned about the degree of development that our country has achieved and about our maritime riches, but nothing justifies the surreptitious incursion into Mexican territorial waters in an action that clearly violates international law, he stated.

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CSO: 3248/1280

DEVELOPMENT, NOT LAND DIVISION, SEEN AS KEY TO REFORM

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 8 Sep 83 p 14-A

[Excerpt] Huejutla, Hidalgo, 7 September--Luis Martinez Villicana, head of the Secretariat of Agrarian Reform said here yesterday that "the solution for Mexican agriculture is not to continue to distribute land but to take a serious look at the programs for peasant organization, the carrying out of infrastructural projects, the supplying of materials and the commitment of the Revolutionary government to help the peasants produce."

The official repeated the formal commitment between the government of the republic and that of the state to resolve all of the agrarian rights problems of the peasants of this entity before the end of the year. "We are committed to this," he emphasized.

He also stated that all of the land that was committed in the presidential resolutions will be turned over to them and none of the public lands of the communities will remain. There will be nothing left to receive. "This program is set up to be resolved by the end of the year."

Martinez Villicana, accompanied by Guillermo Rossell, governor of this entity, fulfilled the presidential commitment of last 19 July in regard to the implementation of the Agrarian Justice Program for Huasteca by announcing the expropriation of 4,000 hectares with a cost of 162 million pesos to resolve the landholding problem for 16 Huastecan public lands and the enclaves, a program that will be specified in about 6 months.

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P. GOMEZ SHOT AT; BISHOP LONA THREATENED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 7 Sep 83 pp 4-A, 28-A, 29-A

[From "Political Fronts" column, by Humberto Aranda]

[Text] Yesterday, before the Chamber of Deputies, PSUM [Unified Socialist Party of Mexico] Representative Daniel Angel Sanchez Perez denounced the attempt on the life of Pablo Gomez, PSUM secretary general, last Sunday in the state of Oaxaca.

Irma Cue, president of the Chamber of Deputies, turned the accusation over to legislative committees so that they could investigate the case.

Sanchez Perez stated yesterday that on Sunday, Pablo Gomez, members of his party and of the COCEI [Labor, Peasant, Student Coalition of the Isthmus], accompanied by several journalists, were traveling along the highway Sayula-Ciudad Aleman in Oaxaca at 10 pm in a PSUM vehicle. At kilometer 93, the vehicle of the PSUM members was intercepted by a vehicle that was traveling some 100 km per hour and from which a burst from an M-2 rifle was fired at the driver of the bus occupied by Pablo Gomez and his retinue. An affidavit of this was drawn up in the Public Ministry of Loma Bonita in Oaxaca.

A document presented in the chamber by Representative Sanchez Perez indicates that "the obvious intent was to kill the driver and cause the bus to overturn," which did not occur because despite the fact that the driver was injured by glass splinters, he was able to control the bus.

The PSUM demanded before the chamber a rapid, exhaustive and satisfactory investigation of the attempt on the lives of Pablo Gomez and his companions, who on Sunday has attended some festivities in Juchitan on account of the restoration of the municipal palace.

Bishop Lona Threatened

Yesterday, Arturo Lona Reyes, bishop of Tehuantepec, went before Manuel Francisco Castillo, agent of the Public Ministry of Juchitan, and accused Teodoro Altamirano, candidate for local PRI representative, and others of

transgressions involving threats, insults, breaking and entering, defamation and other faults.

In his complaint, the ecclesiastical leader said that last Sunday Teodoro Altamirano came to his offices in Tehuantepec and with insults and threats sought to prevent him from going to Juchitan to officiate at a mass that the COCEI had asked him to celebrate in memory of Miguel Posada Lopez and Isidro Pineda Orozco, who died last 31 July in the confrontation between the COCEI and the PRI.

Correspondent Felipe Sanchez indicates that both the PRI and the dissident group assert that those killed were their members; but since this has not been determined, both factions continue to dispute the political affiliation of the deceased.

Bishop Lona Reyes executed affidavit No 359,983 and asked Manuel Francisco Castillo, agent of the Public Ministry, to act impartially so that the charge is not filed away. The bishop pointed out that Altamirano came to threaten him without bringing an invitation by the COCEI to officiate at the mass.

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LA PRENSA COVERAGE OF KOREAN PLANE INCIDENT SCORED

Silence Regarding Country's Dead

Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 6 Sep 83 p 3

[Commentary by Onofre Guevara L: "Two Faces, the Same Coin]

[Text] A hypocrite could pass as a humanist if while putting up a front of sorrow for the pain of others, far away, he were able to conceal his lack of feeling for the pain of those who, because they are nearer, because they share the same nationality and the same territory, would morally require of him at least a minimum amount of respect. We are not speaking of solidarity because that can come only from a noble gesture of brotherhood, which is not shared when class identification is lacking.

We are referring to the daily LA PRENSA and to the specific case of the manipulated South Korean airplane incident. The contrast between the pretended feeling of sorrow for the plane's victims, expressed as mechanically as the weeping of a hired mourner, and the silence which is so firmly maintained with regard to Nicaraguan victims of all ages from imperialist aggression widens even more the distance between that newspaper and the Nicaraguan people. It is the distance that exists between what is politically agreeable to LA PRENSA and the formal Nicaraguan feelings which it still proclaims.

Aside from all the imperialists' international manipulation of the unfortunate South Korean plane incident--a manipulation which appears to be ineffective in view of the evidence brought out each day by the objective examination which world opinion is forced to make out of decency and good sense--it is worthwhile to stress the incongruence of the rightist newspaper's campaigns programmed from abroad and its conspiracy of silence regarding what goes on domestically. In both cases it is engaged in the same kind of politics: in making a fuss over a distant incident and in ignoring the deaths--our dead. This is like two sides of the same coin.

Actually, this is not a new occurrence nor is this the last time we will see it. But perhaps this case may be the one which allows us to see this more clearly. How easily the pained or indignant expressions of the South Koreans can hurdle distances and technical problems to be reflected on the front page

of LA PRENSA and how far away from the pages of that newspaper are the pained and indignant expressions of the children, parents, brothers and sisters and comrades of those assassinated nowhere else but right at our borders!

One cannot help but comment on the evident advantage of the dollar over sorrow in matters of politics, interest and bourgeois propaganda.

The anti-people consortium exploiters have always had these well-known material advantages but they are ineffective when the people confront them with dynamic revolutionary morale which sets them free. Besides, it is also a priceless advantage that at a time of maximum tension for the Nicaraguan people, created by aggression, the allies of imperialism are forced to display their obligations through propaganda service or silence, because this has an intimate and profound effect on the laborers, workers, teachers, technicians and professionals whom the reactionaries have tried to win over to their evil cause.

Fortunately, truth is not just a word, but more than anything a fact, or several facts, and in the airplane matter, there is a very clear one.

'Serving American Imperialism'

Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 7 Sep 83 pp 1, 8

[Editorial: "Along the Class Road They Are Losing Their Homeland"]

[Text] To reveal the anti-Nicaraguan nature of the letter and the spirit of the pronouncements of the newspaper LA PRENSA, S.A., it is not necessary to use a lot of adjectives. It suffices merely to point out the purpose of its conduct. Unfortunately, its conduct molds to a large extent the actions of the nation's rightist political groups who little by little have been losing their historical perspective of Nicaraguan events and even their Nicaraguan way of thinking.

For example, LA PRENSA published with enormous enthusiasm and obvious hypocrisy the enormous flood of "news" which the Reagan administration set in motion regarding the South Korean plane tragedy.

We will not dwell on how clearly it is revealed that the publishers of LA PRENSA have never stopped to think of the human lives lost there but have focused their "reports" on anti-Soviet jubilation.

They did not make a similar display when opposition action caused the death of 75 Miskito Indian children on the northern frontier. Nor have they devoted space to the Masaya militiamen who fell in Zelaya; nor to the hundreds of Nicaraguans, most of them youths, who shed their blood in the defense of their country. They persist in thinking of our country as being located in the studies of some bishops or in the halls of the miniparties or on their editorial desks.

For them, serving American imperialism by spreading anti-Soviet phobia is a victory against the Nicaraguan Revolution. They do not realize that none of this makes a dent on the process that is going forward in Nicaragua. They only succeed in displaying themselves in the lowest and most unworthy role of pawns of the enemy of what they call their country.

But is Nicaragua really their country?

Although it is hard to believe it, there are serious objective doubts about answering this question affirmatively.

Can it be Nicaraguans who refuse to categorize the achievements of Sandinism as outstanding historical achievements?

In their zeal to remove from history the events which as a class they abhor, in their desire to deny to the revolutionary forces the legitimacy of their struggles and victories, they end up by placing themselves outside the frontiers of their homeland.

They wish that what has happened were a dream, and they deceive themselves each day when they are awakened by the voice of our people with their vigorous slogans.

They wish that the vigilant revolutionaries in each block would disintegrate.

They wish that an atomic bomb Made in USA would fall on the popular gatherings.

Finally, they wish that time rolled back and that they could reach accommodation as eternal opposition to Somozism because, according to them, Somoza, with money, the stick and the bullet, at least granted them their class "dignity."

Today they are enduring the most terrible torment. The revolutionary government not only does not give them the money, the stick or the bullet but has taken from them the possibility of power and has given it to that "trash" which in the past they only looked at as "mass" instruments for their political maneuvering.

To believe that what has happened has not happened is to be on the wrong road. Along that road they will never again find the nation in which they were born. The more they persist in denying Nicaraguan reality, the further they will be from enjoying the satisfaction of having a country. That is why it is becoming clearer and clearer in the pages of LA PRENSA, S.A. that they are adopting a false homeland, the homeland of the enemies of humanity.

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BORGE COMMENTS ON ETA, ELECTIONS, U.S. ACTIONS

Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 20, 21 Sep 83

[Interview with Interior Minister Tomas Borge by Jose Guerrero Martin; date and place not specified]

[20 Sep 83 p 15]

[Text] The Nicaraguan interior minister, Tomas Borge, who is touring several European countries, discusses here the topic of the possible presence of ETA [Basque Fatherland and Liberty Group] members in his country. The second part of the interview with the historic Sandinist leader will be published tomorrow, and in it he will comment on the Nicaraguan internal situation as well as the conflict associated with Central America in general.

[Question] Does the Nicaraguan Government have any information regarding the presence of activists from the ETA organization in its country?

[Answer] I can guarantee, in this instance as interior minister, that there is no activity in Nicaragua on the part of the ETA organization with backing from our government. It has even been claimed that there are ETA training camps in Nicaragua, something contrary to the most fundamental logic. Nicaragua has a very extensive international policy. There is easy entry into Nicaragua. Contradictorily, we have been accused of being a totalitarian country, when we have not even denied the Americans entry. On the other hand, we decided to abolish the visa for Americans who want to visit our country, following the elimination of the Nicaraguan Consulates in the U.S. For reasons of reciprocity, no Spaniard needs a visa to enter Nicaragua. I have no official information that elements belonging to ETA have arrived. In any event, it is possible that some of those elements may have arrived in Nicaragua, not as an entity, but rather as individuals. Understandably, we want to maintain good relations with Felipe Gonzalez' Socialist government, and it is only natural that we should be extremely careful not to do anything that might harm those relations; in addition to the fact that, for reasons of principle, we could not support any activity that would represent destabilization or detriment to the interests of a friendly government. Nor would we in the case of enemy governments, but with far more reason in that of friendly governments. Hence, the mindless, irresponsible assertion that we have ETA training camps is groundless and senseless.

[Question] Then to what do you attribute that claim?

[Answer] So many things are being said about Nicaragua. I have noticed that Costa Rica, a neighboring country with greater access to our reality, is often the scene of spectacular claims regarding Nicaragua. Sometimes inconceivable charges are made, with reckless assurance, which, if one were not certain that they were malicious, would cause hilarity. For example, in countries bordering Nicaragua it has been stated quite "seriously" that we have the strongest air force in America after the United States. In Costa Rica it was claimed that I assassinated Carlos Fonseca. If they hear that in Nicaragua, either they scowl in anger or they are prompted to laugh. So, the fact that someone with great self-confidence claims that we have ETA training camps is nothing odd; because there are assertions every day regarding various aspects of the Nicaraguan revolution which are in contradiction to common sense.

[Question] The war of information is as important as the other one. What weapon does Nicaragua have at its disposal?

[Answer] Actually, the war of information is as important as the one with weapons. Our great weapon is the truth, the fact that this is false. The fact is that the avalanche of lies is repeated like a drop of water falling persistently, until it penetrates the people's consciousness. And it is difficult to compete with the news multinationals and with the organized malice. I know no other weapon better than pitting our truth against the lies. We have always adhered to the truth, almost as a mystique and in very difficult situations we have decided to tell the truth, regardless of the difficulties that it might entail for us.

[Question] But they have gone so far as to claim that, in the Interior Ministry which you head, there is an agency responsible for combating the adversary, and even undertaking his physical elimination.

[Answer] There are in the Interior Ministry various agencies which are the normal ones in any Interior Ministry: the police, state security... The Interior Ministry, as part of a magnanimous policy of the Nicaraguan revolution, has been prominent precisely for a philosophy respectful of human rights, and there is no agency specializing in the commission of political assassinations in it. We have eliminated the death penalty, and that has been one of the marks of the Nicaraguan revolution. Despite the popular pressure at the large gatherings, when they have demanded of us a harder hand against the enemies of our people, we have been extremely magnanimous. A great many of the guard members who are currently participating in counterrevolutionary activities were released directly by us. There are in Nicaragua seven farms with an open system, on which the Somozist prisoners work without police guard, and they may go home every 3 months. All of this is in contradiction to an alleged agency used to foster national or international crime. We have a different style, a different philosophy and a different manner; we adhere to very stringent principles of a moral nature. If we have eliminated the death penalty in Nicaragua, it would make no sense for us to establish it in other countries. Despite the fact that there is a great deal of counterrevolutionary activity in the neighboring countries,

we have never sent anyone to engage in actions that might jeopardize relations with other countries, and mainly because we uphold certain moral principles germane to our revolution.

[21 Sep 83 p 18]

[Text] In this second part of the interview held with Tomas Borge, Nicaragua's interior minister and historic Sandinist leader, there is a discussion of features of that country's internal situation, as well as of the prospects for the future, in view of the conflict in which Central America is immersed, a conflict which threatens to become widespread.

[Answer] We have defined our political design in very concrete terms. There is a mixed economy in Nicaragua; 60 percent of the GDP is private; there is political pluralism, with 11 parties. It is these concrete facts that contradict certain claims. If there are in Nicaragua 11 political parties which can come to power in an electoral process that will take place in 1985, and if 60 percent of the GDP lies in the private area, what is the origin of the claim that we have eliminated the mixed economy, that there is no political pluralism and that we are totalitarian? What is the origin of the claim that we are satellites of the Soviet Union, when there are instances wherein our views have not coincided in the international organizations? If we wanted to be anyone's satellite, it would be far easier to be one of the United States, because it is much closer to us. If we were satellites of the United States, there would certainly not be any Soviet ships on our coasts. The fact that we have liberated ourselves from U.S. domination entails a certain price that must be paid, including being accused of things with the sole, exclusive aim of destabilizing our revolution and creating excuses to destroy our small country.

[Question] In certain countries and sectors, doubts have been expressed concerning the actual holding of the elections announced for 1985.

[Answer] I don't believe that anyone doubts that we shall hold elections in 1985. But, in order to hurt the image of the Nicaraguan revolution, stress is being placed on a problem that we have cited on many occasions. The Law on Political Parties has just been passed, and an entire legal system is being created for the purpose of guaranteeing truly democratic elections for the first time in Nicaragua. What more can we do? To be sure, we shall establish a type of government geared to our country's individual conditions, without underestimating the experiences of other countries. Everything that we are doing in this direction seems to have been forgotten. I don't know what more we can do, unless it were to kneel? Do they want us to humble ourselves, shouting to the world's political maneuverers who are demanding from us something that has been explained sufficiently? Because there are even some who are telling us the types of government we should have; and that is a matter which must be decided upon by the Nicaraguans exclusively.

Our democracy has its own features, and a distinction will have to be made between what is form and what is content. On what is our democracy based?

On the interests of the great majorities in our country. As for the form, we have not yet decided on it; but that is secondary. What is fundamental is the interests to be addressed by that government; and in that respect we shall not go back an inch on the principle that it must address the interests of the great masses of the population. In our incipient parliament, which is the Council of State, there is already not only party representation, but also that of trade unions and of social and religious organizations.

The Essence of the Conflict

[Question] Has the Sandinist government considered the possibility that it might lose free elections?

[Answer] That would run counter to the laws of history. We do not conceive of that possibility. In any event, from a legal standpoint it has been guaranteed that the party which wins the majority will have the power. Every day, we observe the population's massive backing for the Sandinist revolution. There is a phenomenon that must be understood: The people are dissatisfied, because there is a shortage of products, or because certain expectations have not been fulfilled for them; and nevertheless they support the revolution. They do not conceive of the possibility of the revolution's being replaced by another power establishment; but they demand that the revolution solve their problems, because ultimately, the Nicaraguan people have the right to demand.

[Question] According to the Nicaraguan Government, in what terms is the conflict affecting Central America posed?

[Answer] Nicaragua is not the only area of conflict in Central America. El Salvador is one too; that must not be forgotten. In any event, the Nicaraguan Government has taken peace initiatives, which were stated on 19 July; prominent in the points thereof being the acceptance of a multilateral discussion. We have been accused of being a zone for the passage of the weapons that the Salvadorans are receiving. We demand that evidence of this be submitted, and that evidence has never been submitted. We cite the need for a non-aggression pact between Nicaragua and Honduras which, in my opinion, would qualitatively resolve the essential features of the conflict that exists in Central America, in the specific case of those two countries. Progress has been made in the Contadora Group's discussions, and Nicaragua is inclined in favor of having a broader space in order to negotiate; hence, our position is extremely flexible, and aimed at providing all the facilities to make possible the holding of serious negotiations regarding the Central American problem.

[Question] In the view of the Nicaraguan Government, what is the U.S. objective in this crisis?

[Answer] The United States is attempting to prevent the triumph of the revolution in El Salvador and, based on recent statements by Generals Hinckley and Motley, to destroy the Nicaraguan revolution.

[Question] In the essence of the conflict, which coordinates prevail: the North-South (wealth-underdevelopment), or the East-West (battle between capitalism and communism)?

[Answer] The problem in Central America is not between East and West. The hunger, the oppression, the lack of land for the peasants and the poverty in which our peoples are living is not a conflict between East and West; it is an objective contradiction that exists between the desire to eat and the lack of food; between the need for nutrition and the lack of means for achieving it; between the diseases that could be cured and the lack of medical resources. It is not an East-West problem, one which is being resolved on different levels and in which they want to involve us in a completely and deliberately artificial manner.

Checks on the Conflict

[Question] Is direct U.S. intervention likely?

[Answer] It is a possibility. I don't think that, at the present time, direct intervention in Nicaragua would be so easy for the American Government; although it is already intervening through the counterrevolutionary elements, and with a constantly growing participation by the Honduran Army. Direct intervention would appear to be rather difficult right now, but we are not precluding the possibility of it. We are preparing ourselves for all eventualities, including the latter.

[Question] Hasn't the Contadora Group actually represented a check to prevent such a military conflict?

[Answer] Yes, it has represented that. The Franco-Mexican Declaration of Cancun and the existence of the Contadora Group have served as an objective check on the United States' aggressive policy. As we were told by a French leader, the American representatives themselves have complained about the obstacle to carrying out their policy in Central America that has been represented by the existence of the Contadora Group and the Declaration of Cancun. But there is another major check: our determination to confront any intervention. They will have to pay a very high price, and the American Government has to understand this for once and for all; I hope that the American people acquire an awareness of it, if they intervene directly in our country.

[Question] To what extent does the American public have sufficient information to afford a check on a military conflict?

[Answer] We are expending extraordinary efforts to inform the American people, who are the most disinformed people on earth, by the way. This entails an extra effort by the Nicaraguan revolution, which has expressed itself in concrete terms upon the visits made by a great many American delegations to Nicaragua; something that has had positive effects. The United States, on the other hand, does not allow us to enter its country, or hampers the work of our delegations. That is the famous American democracy. They refuse to listen to our views, while they feel entitled to have all of us Nicaraguans listen to their views.

[Question] Does that high price which you mentioned in the event of direct U.S. intervention include the possibility of extra-Nicaraguan involvement?

[Answer] I think that, if there were direct American intervention in Central America, it would in fact eradicate the Central American borders.

[Question] Is any maneuver conceivable that might interfere with the electoral process which could mean the democratic approval of Sandinism?

[Answer] The American Government will do everything possible to destabilize the Nicaraguan revolution and to create conditions to prevent the holding of elections in our country; because, until we institutionalize our revolution, we are to some extent vulnerable to the accusations being made against us of being totalitarian, in addition to the fact that it is a concern of the revolution and feasible for it to establish institutions that are properly backed by a legal system and by an electoral process.

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HISTORY OF SHINING PATH TRACED; PARTIES VOICE VIEWS

Lima DEBATE 22 in Spanish Sep 83 pp 24-46

[Article by sociologist and journalist Raul Gonzalez, plus unsigned shorter articles and the views of political parties on Shining Path]

[Text] The Path of Shining Path

The long, thorough and patient preparations for a new uprising came to an end on 19 April 1980 in a remote community in the department of Ayacucho whose name no one can or wants to remember exactly. On that day, university professor Abimael Guzman Reynoso, from Arequipa, the top leader of one of the so-called Communist Parties of Peru, which is better known in journalistic and political parlance as Shining Path [Sendero Luminoso], closed his first military school, which he named ILA 80 so that it would be remembered as the one that "began the armed struggle in 1980" [inicio la lucha armada en 1980]. The proof of this is contained in a document whose authenticity seems beyond question.

"This first military school of the party," Guzman told his men that day, "marks an end and a beginning. It marks the end of the times of peace and the beginning of the times of war. The stage of unarmed combat is over. Our armed campaign begins today: To lead the masses, the peasants to rebellion under the imperishable banners of Marxism-Leninism-Mao Tse Tung! We are bringing to an end what we have done so far and initiating the future. Action is the key. The goal: power! This is what we will do. History demands it; the class demands it; the people expect and want it, and we must and will succeed. We are the pioneers..."

"Comrades," the man called "Comrade Gonzalo" added at another point, "let us not forget that to insure and consolidate our gains as 100, we have to move forward as 200. And progress today as 200 means beginning the armed struggle. A start to action will insure that the new takes deep root: with lead, destroying the old walls. This is the new; the rest is the old...This said, there are three things that will happen. First, we become part of the strategic offensive of the world revolution. This is our context; the powerful revolutionary tide is on our side. Second, the people take power by force of arms; the future will be

decided by the grassroots war that we set in motion. Third, the party will begin to develop through the armed struggle and will thus become the powerful party that the revolution needs and must, therefore, forge..."

On 18 May 1980, a group of hooded individuals burned the ballot boxes and election material that had been brought to the Ayacucho district of Chuschi. Two days later, in Lima, the guard at the Nicaraguan Embassy was attacked by a group of hooded individuals as well, and his machine gun stolen. Later, the municipal building in San Martin de Porras District was set on fire, and the thitherto unknown union arm of Shining Path, the Movement of Class Laborers and Workers (MOTC), claimed responsibility. The next target was the tomb of former President Juan Velasco Alvarado, and a day later a Chinese restaurant was burned down by persons unknown, although the restaurant was reportedly having union problems with a group of workers who did not conceal their sympathies for the MOTC. Finally, on 28 July in Ayacucho, police guards discovered and defused bombs that had been placed on the official reviewing stand of a patriotic parade scheduled that day. In the meantime, small bombs went off here and there, and dozens of sticks of dynamite were stolen from police stations and posts.

Shining Path, the men that graduated from the ILA 80, had begun its armed struggle.

From then on (and it has been some 1,200 days) Peru suddenly was forced to live with the previously unknown revolutionary movement that was born in the Andes.

Since then Peruvians have seen their political classes astonished and disconcerted by the increasingly frequent terrorist actions. Thus, there was talk of "the bunch of criminals" who were beginning to celebrate their black masses in Peru, of the "foreign groups" lurking behind Shining Path and of a "terrorism that exists more in the editorial offices of newspapers than in reality." There were also those who while acknowledging that Shining Path was a fact, wondered whether there was not some other group doing its bit to undermine democracy, a clear allusion to the country's various intelligence services.

Meanwhile, in Ayacucho, town halls began to be easy prey for dynamite attacks, as were the National Election Boards, police stations and various shops. In Lima, the American Embassy was bombed by the rebels, as were the Coca Cola plant, ESAL [Lima Sanitation Enterprise] and even Kindergarten No 49 in the Rimac School Zone, among other schools.

The cry that "action is the key, power the goal" was ringing through the country. And it has already been 1,200 days.

Understanding Shining Path

Since then various analysts have sought to understand the phenomenon of Shining Path, believing that its increasingly numerous actions,

its targets and its actual impact reveal changes in its behavior, if not distinct stages in its deified path to the Government Palace. For example, the increasingly frequent blackouts in Lima or the attack on the headquarters of the ruling party, Popular Action, supposedly indicate a move towards an urban offensive.

Nevertheless, a review of the scant but available Shining Path literature, a monitoring of its actions and logical deductions from testimony indicate the opposite.

The fact is that Shining Path did not begin its campaign when it closed down its ILA 80 or when the Ninth Plenum of its Central Committee decided that the time to fight had arrived; it began long before. According to the testimony of more than one former Shining Path member [Senderista] who dropped out, Abimael Guzman and his followers began their efforts towards the armed struggle in the early 1970's, when after embracing the most orthodox Maoism and reading Jose Carlos Mariategui with avid eyes, they became convinced that they had to rebuild the party, work intensively in the countryside and plan every detail of the insurgent strategy.

Faithful to the traditional Maoist theories, they clearly realized, nevertheless, that the war would be a long one and that it had to begin in the countryside, from where they would surround the cities and take power. How long would their lengthy march take? As Shining Path and Shining Path watchers often say, this is the only thing that cannot be accurately estimated, because although they feel that the country is like an enormous dry forest in which "one spark is enough to set the meadow on fire," this hinges on other variables, such as the government's responses and its own political and military accomplishments.

The Senderistas therefore plan everything, everything except these other variables, which are what mark the boundaries between one stage and another. This does not worry them, however, because they know what they have to do to move from one to another.

If the testimony of former members and the group's actions so far have been correctly interpreted in light of Shining Path documents and Mao's writings, then there are three stages.

The first consists of agitation and propaganda, to give it a name. During it the country must be made aware that a group of revolutionaries have taken up arms and that the pockets of rebellion are multiplying all over the country. This is the aim of the acts of sabotage with which we are familiar. Nonetheless, this stage has three other objectives that are as important as they are overlooked. First, the group wants to forge a regular army "in the struggle," in other words, to develop a contingent of men recruited and trained "in the struggle," during this stage, not in the initial military schools. Secondly, it wants to consolidate its influence in the countryside and, at the same time,

create the necessary conditions so that various areas can eventually become true bases of support. Finally, it wants to destabilize the political system, basically by polarizing society and "unmasking" the various political forces in the system, including the Left of course.

The second stage involves the establishment of the famous liberated zones, which as their name indicates, means getting rid of everything that represents the State, including the forces of law and order. This obviously requires the support of the locals and a regular Senderista army. In this stage, confrontation and combat is taken for granted as the prelude to the final stage: all-out war and the besieging of the cities.

If this analysis is correct (and all indications are that it is), Shining Path is still in its first lengthy stage, after 1,200 days. It would be well to remember that according to the group's own assessment of its first 2,900 actions, which are listed in red and white in its pamphlet "Let us expand the guerrilla war," it has posted two major accomplishments. First, it has made progress in developing "an armed force led by the party...which will grow to become a column of the New State." Second, it has posted this "far-reaching achievement: the emergence and development of guerrilla zones. They are important because these are the areas in which, through the powerful and mounting revolutionary tide of guerrilla warfare, we will construct our future support bases, the advanced and revolutionary strongholds discussed in the military strategy of Chairman Mao Tse-Tung, bases that are the very essence of the move towards surrounding the cities from the countryside, the very essence of the grassroots war."

The First Stage

Given this context, following Shining Path's trail requires not only focusing on this or that terrorist act but also analyzing the overall conduct of Abimael Guzman's group.

Many things happened inside and outside Ayacucho between May 1980, when they burnt the ballot boxes in Chuschi, and September 1982, when they buried the guerrilla fighter Edith Lagos. Nevertheless, we can regard this period as a first major phase.

The first police station was attacked on 11 October 1981. This took place in Tambo and gave rise to the declaration of a "Stage of Emergency" in five Ayacucho provinces. Subsequently, the Totos police station was attacked on 10 December, the San Jose de Secce station on 6 January 1982, the Quina, Vilcashuaman station in March, and the Tambo station once again in March as well. In a word, almost all Ayacucho police stations received greetings from Shining Path, and some, like the ones in Tambo and Vilcashuaman, were paid unpleasant return visits.

The most important action during this period, however, was the assault on the Ayacucho jail, because, as word has it there, they managed to

free their most important military personnel. It was also important because they demonstrated through commando action that they had the ability to corner and immobilize the various police forces in their barracks and literally to take over the capital of the department without much trouble. In turn, the burial of Edith Lagos turned into the most spectacular episode of Shining Path's first 28 months above ground, as more than 15,000 persons marched in her funeral procession.

In the meantime, Lima was blacked out twice: on 26 March and 19 August 1982. On both occasions and amid the darkness stores and public buildings were hit by homemade bombs, and the populace reacted with panic as unseen individuals rushed in shouting all sorts of slogans. Elsewhere in the country there were wholesale bombings (particularly of transmission towers), weapons thefts and, of course, robberies of hundreds of sticks of dynamite.

The capital city's newspapers gave detailed and often exaggerated accounts of each of these incidents. Little or nothing was being said, however, about what was going on in Shining Path's headquarters, that is to say, the department of Ayacucho, in the communities in which it has focused its efforts. And no one of course said that Shining Path was gaining major grassroots support all this time and to the surprise of many, even if such support took the form of just open sympathy rather than militancy" (See "Ayacucho: Along the Roads of Shining Path," QUE HACER/19, October 1982).

Why? Because over a decade of hard work Shining Path had given the residents of this inhospitable land faith and hope, not a program, which they might well not understand. The people of Ayacucho, who have long been neglected, needed to believe in something, to have faith and to cherish hopes. They needed everything that the State and the country's various political groups denied them; moreover, they did not come to the region or into towns to tell the peasants: "The alternative that I'm proposing to you is better than Shining Path's."

Furthermore, Shining Path (or at least its operatives) is made up of peasants, who have always worn sandals, munched on coca leaves and shared the same beliefs. In the countryside and in the city they all realized at some point that a brother, a son, a cousin, a nephew, an uncle or a friend was involved with the group.

There are other reasons as well, however. When Shining Path first arrived in the communities (this is the hallmark of the period), it got rid of (how does not matter) the bad elements, that is to say, the rustlers, the bandits and the usurers, and punished those who in its judgment abused the villagers. The group distributed food and sought backing, giving talks and promising a better future. Acosvinchos, Vilcashuaman, Airabamba, Aisarca, Vinchos and Pomatambo, among other towns, can bear witness to how the Senderistas won support, sympathy and applause.

Thus, "the excesses" and the many policemen who died during the attacks on the stations did not matter to the locals. In contrast, the fearless daring in which "the guerrilla boys" gloried indicated to them that they could keep their word and that things could change. Moreover, many Ayacucho peasants felt that they were being "avenged" for the injustices they had suffered when they learned that the Senderistas launched "a surprise attack" and that the "Sinchis" [Civil Guard's Special Services Unit personnel] were unable to follow them because "they are highly skilled at clambering up, down and across the mountains."

In addition to all these reasons, we can cite, in conclusion, the repeatedly denounced behavior of the Sinchis, who with their domineering, abusive and clumsy approach wound up providing Shining Path with more than one new adherent.

Shining Path was on the offensive in Ayacucho until September 1982, and the police were on the defensive, not knowing how to combat this group of militiamen who enjoyed open grassroots support and moved around the breathtaking Andean countryside like fish in water.

But although things were looking rosy for them in Ayacucho, the situation was different in the rest of the country, because the bombings, the murders and even the news about what was happening in Ayacucho prompted only condemnation from the populace and the country's various political forces.

Why? Because the group could offer the Peruvian people in general neither the faith nor the hope that the residents of Ayacucho needed, much less a program, giving them only violence instead. Moreover, Shining Path was operating outside not only the democratic system but even the organizations of social forces, on which it attempted to impose orthodox Maoist methods, which they rejected.

Shining Path's strategy thus collided with this fact: Peru is not Ayacucho and is far from being the pile of dry wood that its followers can set on fire whenever they want.

September marked the end of this initial period, with the country's political forces caught up in a major debate: how to confront Shining Path.

The Second Phase

The second period in Shining Path's 1,200 days extended from September 1982 to late January 1983.

To understand what took place during this time we need to remember the objectives that the Senderistas had set for themselves nationwide during their first stage. Let's take a look at the results. The entire country was aware of its existence; its men had gradually been "hardened in the struggle," as it wanted; the Peruvian political system was caught

up in a search for an answer to the Ayacucho phenomenon, which it did not understand, and at least in Ayacucho the group had created the necessary conditions for setting up a future liberated zone. There was something missing, however. A new guerrilla pocket had not emerged, and its political efforts were limited to the department of Ayacucho. Furthermore, Shining Path was being widely condemned.

In the face of this situation, Shining Path attempted during this entire period to speed up the lengthy process it had anticipated for Ayacucho. What were the results? It lost much of the support that it had worked long and hard to win.

During this 5-month period the Senderistas began to interfere with the destiny of the villages and heard their first "noes" from the locals, who not only forgot that the Senderistas had gotten rid of rustling but began seeing them as some new group of bandits. This was because Guzman's men threatened if not punished those who questioned their orders.

In addition, Shining Path wanted the communities to produce only enough for their own consumption, to raise only the animals that they needed and, lastly, not to go to market. The argument was that this self-sufficiency approach would deprive the cities of food and that their only alternative would then be to rise up in support of Shining Path. The result: the communities rebelled but felt powerless to confront Shining Path, which asserted the strength of its battered weapons.

The villagers all buy their salt, matches and candles at the marketplaces, and when many of them were closed down, on Shining Path's orders (Ocros, for example), they had to travel to more distant markets to buy this or that item, which obviously cost them more. The people who sold their goods at market were in the same or a worse situation. The communities' market was being threatened, and the locals were protesting.

Shining Path got rid of rustlers, bandits and usurers. When the remaining ones fled Ayacucho, "the guerrilla boys" went after the people whom they regarded as traitors to the movement, to the cause, and against those whom it accused of "helping the police." It was an ill-fated move, because whereas getting rid of the rustlers aroused sympathy, the "execution" of "traitors" and "stool pigeons" had the opposite effect: opposition and condemnation.

Finally, this was the period in which efforts intensified to recruit men for the ranks of the Senderista armed forces. The target: the youngest men. The result: parents coming to their defense and decisions by dozens of villages to stand up to Shining Path if it came to recruit their sons.

The police station at Mayoc in Huancavelica was attacked on 5 September, and four civil guardsmen lost their lives. The major events of this period were the execution of "traitors," however. Yori Luz Saenz,

a Senderista who by all indications had taken part in the holdup of the store called "La Pequenita," was executed on 4 November, and Aurea Quispe, a teacher who refused to collaborate with the group, met the same fate on 5 November; a month during which Shining Path murdered 21 persons.

This was the period in which anthropologist Walter Wong, a head of the Ayacucho INC, was murdered and in which Mayor Victor Jauregui Mejia was attacked. It was during this period that streets in the city of Huamanga were filled with lists of people "condemned to death."

In the final days of 1982 the government ordered the Armed Forces into the strife-torn department.

From that point on the Senderistas would have an additional problem. No longer could they move so easily around Ayacucho, because the army was gradually occupying the entire department.

The Third (and Last?) Phase

The Armed Forces (the army in particular) began moving into the department in January, and they have apparently completed their mission as of now. Despite predictions, Shining Path has not been brought to its knees, although it has apparently fallen back and gone into hiding.

This period has been basically characterized by Shining Path's departure from the region and by the decentralization of its attacks, which have been directed mainly against the capital.

In the wake of the military intervention, its activities in Ayacucho decreased, only to spread elsewhere. There is almost a direct relationship here: the more severe the crackdown in Ayacucho, the more Shining Path undertakes ambitious actions in Lima.

Lima thus suffered two major blackouts, the biggest one on 21 July. The headquarters of Popular Action was the target of a direct attack, and two of its activists were killed. Moreover, bombs exploded everywhere: at the Barbones Barracks, the AP headquarters in Rimac, the ASINCOOP offices, the Brena town hall, the offices of the Banco Continental, the Telephone Company office on Faucett Avenue, an oxygen plant on Argentina Avenue, a bank on San Juan de Miraflores, another on Chorrillos, the ESAL offices, etc, in a nutshell, dozens of bombings that have made panic an unwelcome guest in Lima.

In Ayacucho in the meantime, Shining Path has reacted to the antisubversive strategy by attacking villages and killing locals it suspects of being paramilitaries, while many of its activists are moving into areas bordering on Ayacucho Department.

In spite of its ups and downs, Shining Path, which has been in the public eye for 1,200 days now, continues to harass Peru's political

system and to pursue the strategy (which it must have written down someplace) of the lengthy first stage of the revolution it dreams of.

Separately, we must pay careful attention to the antisubversive strategy that has been implemented, if only to understand what has been happening in Ayacucho lately, especially after the Armed Forces took political and military control of the region. All indications so far are that this strategy is pitting community against community, while the regular army, having no similar opponent with which to face off, is blindly battling an entire populace, thinking perhaps, as a ranking military commander once said, that if it kills 60, at least 6 will be Senderistas. [end of Gonzalez article]

Why Ayacucho?

If there is any city in Peru that is known around the world by now, aside from Cuzco, it is Ayacucho, the city that has been martyred by the Communist Party of Peru--Shining Path--which chose to begin its armed struggle there.

For thousands of years Ayacucho has been the scene of decisive moments in Peru's history. The first great Pan-Andean empire, the legendary Huari Confederation, was established in its valleys. There too the Inca Tupac Yupanqui subdued the indomitable Huancas and thus consolidated the Cuzco dominion in the Andes. The conquest once again made these lands part of history, as the alliance between Spaniards and Huancas that was decisive in destroying the Inca Empire was forged there. Bolivar's hosts put the finishing touches on the war of liberation at the Battle of Ayacucho in 1824, defeating the last major Spanish contingent on South American soil. It seems more than just coincidence, therefore, that a threat to the stability of the Andean world is coming from there.

These apparent historic coincidences stem from something more than Ayacucho being the hub of the country. Another factor is the presence of an extremely ancient people whose origins go back to 20,000 years before Christ, when the first shepherds appeared.

The Attack on the Tambo Police Station

Sunday 11 October 1981, 8 in the evening. In the front office of the Civil Guard police station in the district of Tambo, in La Mar Province some 65 kilometers from the capital of Ayacucho Department, Carlos and Elena Torres, carrying their 9-month old baby, were filing charges against their maid, Efigenia Chacchi, who was also present, for stealing a pair of shoes. Sergeant Porfirio Diaz, the man in charge at the station, and Officer Jorge Vivanco were listening carefully to their account and writing down the required information about the parties to the dispute. In the room next door another Porfirio, Officer Paucar, was arranging his things and preparing to leave for dinner.

The calm of the night was suddenly shattered by some 40 hooded men who burst into the station firing their weapons. The hail of bullets from one machine gun ended the life of Officer Vivanco, Carlos Torres and his 9-month old baby. Elena and Efigenia were wounded. The only one unharmed was Sergeant Diaz, who was screened by the bodies now lying on the floor.

"Don't kill me; I've got eight children," the sergeant begged them. At that moment Officer Paucar rushed in shooting; like everyone else, he was confused and did not understand what was going on. His efforts were in vain. One bullet hit him in the ear, another in the leg, and his ammunition finally gave out. The men in hoods did not kill him. They beat him, blindfolded him and tossed a jar of sulfuric acid at him that the officer himself had seized a few days before. The attackers then organized their retreat. They set free the four prisoners being held at the station and carried off all the weapons they found: 4 submachine guns, 2 revolvers, 1 carbine and some 600 rounds of ammunition.

The attackers headed for the Plaza de Armas, shouting slogans: "Long live the armed struggle!" and "Death to Belaunde!" ultimately hoisting a red flag with the hammer and sickle. A few minutes later there were no signs of them.

The following day, the government declared a "State of Emergency" in the provinces of Huanca, La Mar, Victor Fajardo and Cangallo "in view of the serious disturbances of the peace due to the terrorist acts that have been perpetrated." Civil Guard Gen Carlos Barreto then decreed a "curfew" from 10 in the evening to 5 in the morning, and 210 troops from the Special Services Unit of the Civil Guard, "Sinchis" in other words, and 60 Peruvian Investigative Police agents were immediately sent to the Shining Path stronghold.

This was the first attack on a police station. It was Shining Path's first "major" action.

The Attack on the Ayacucho CRAS

Sunday 2 March 1982, 7 in the evening. Three persons wearing police uniforms arrived at the house of Melquiades Acosta and asked to borrow his Dodge D-300 truck for an "important secret mission." Acosta thought it over and said yes, provided he could accompany them. On the way the three easily overpowered him, tying him up and leaving him by the roadside.

At 11:30 p.m. four groups of armed men in two trucks, one of which was Acosta's Dodge, entered and occupied the city of Huamanga. The first group surrounded the Civil Guard Headquarters; the second did the same at the Departmental Headquarters of the Peruvian Investigative Police (PIP); the third headed for the Headquarters of the Republican Guard, and the fourth and largest group surrounded and attacked the Ayacucho jail, called CRAS.

The gate to the penitentiary was blown open; a series of blasts were heard in the city, and the lights went out. The alarm was sounded at the various police stations around the city, as officers grabbed their weapons and prepared to take to the streets. Because of the explosions all over the city and the shots coming from various angles, however, they realized that they had better stay put. They were immobilized, and the Senderistas were on the loose all over Huamanga.

The gate to CRAS had been blown open with several sticks of dynamite, and an intense exchange of gunfire was going on inside. Meanwhile, another group of attackers entered the jail from the rear, using ropes and ladders transported in Acosta's truck. A half hour later the Senderistas had resolved the situation in their favor.

Having taken over the jail, they sang their anthems, hoisted their red flag and freed 297 male and 7 female prisoners, one of whom was Edith Lagos, a guerrilla fighter. A half hour later, after confiscating whatever weapons they found, they disappeared into the night.

The attacks left two Republican Guardsmen dead and eight policemen wounded. Ten Shining Path attackers or prisoners lost their lives.

It was a commando raid that required thorough planning and that according to official information involved close to 150 Senderistas.

The assault on the Ayacucho jail jolted Peruvian public opinion, not only because "after this, anything is possible," but also because of what happened a half hour later in the Ayacucho hospital. A group of uniformed guards there dragged three badly wounded Senderistas out of their beds and cravenly shot them in the back. The slain men were Jimmy Rousell Wensjoe, Carlos Alcantara and Amilcar Urbay.

The Attack on AP

Monday 11 July 1983, 7:15 p.m. Close to 250 AP members were chatting and passing the time at the ruling party's headquarters. The plenary meeting that had brought them there was scheduled to begin at 7, but as on other occasions it was taken for granted that it would not start until around 8.

Homemade bombs of the type invented by General Molotov suddenly exploded on the ground floor, while several sticks of dynamite were hurled in from outside. The bewildered delegates tried to escape. They were unable to. Posted at the main door on Colon Boulevard, the attackers, submachine guns in hand, fired away without hesitation. They then tried to hide or throw themselves to the ground, but it was too late.

The few short minutes seemed endless. The toll: 30 AP members wounded and 2 leaders dead: Mario Arauco from the Popular Action Committee of Villa El Salvador and Teresa Zegarra, the sister of Deputy Aureo Zegarra.

After the attackers, who according to several eyewitnesses were elegantly dressed, fled, the cries of pain and panic were uncontrollable as the wounded were taken to a nearby clinic by those who had managed to remain calm.

The police arrived 15 minutes later, followed shortly thereafter by the main AP leaders, including Secretary General Javier Alva Orlandini (in whose office a bomb had gone off), and the president of the republic himself, Fernando Belaunde Terry. An hour later, a delegation from APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] headed by Alan Garcia and a group from United Left showed up also.

The criminal assault on the ruling party's headquarters took place just as several areas around the capital had been plunged into darkness by the blowing up of various high-tension towers.

The incident was described as the most serious and audacious terrorist act in Lima's history, was condemned by public opinion at large and prompted renewed discussion about the death penalty.

The Four Blackouts in Lima

On Friday 26 March 1982, Lima suffered its worst blackout ever, plunging into total darkness. Station 167 of the Pomacocha line, a transmission tower of the Mantaro Power Plant, had been blown up by powerful, well-placed sticks of dynamite. It was 8:15 in the evening.

At that very moment, some 20 young men who were waiting for the 375 generating units with which the plant supplies Lima with power to stop operating, attacked the Arenales shopping center, hurling 35 bombs at 2 banks and 10 stores. Some 30 blocks away, 8 bombs damaged the Data Processing Office in the municipality of Miraflores.

The second blackout occurred on Thursday 19 August 1982. This time the towers that had been dynamited were numbers 2001 and 2002 of the Huinco Power Plant, 607 of Pamplona and the 2 main ones at Mangamarca. They were all blown up at the same time: 7:29 in the evening.

Concurrently, homemade bombs were set off at various spots around the capital, setting fire downtown to the "Costa" furniture store, the "El" stores, the "Adams" establishment and "Inti" galleries. Amid the darkness, people walking near the central market and Polvos Azules were mugged.

The government then decided to suspend certain constitutional rights: the inviolability of the home, the right to travel throughout the country, freedom of assembly and the prohibition against "being arrested without a court order." Even though there was a major show of police force around Lima at this time, the national press could not hide the fact that Lima was without a coordinated defense plan.

The third blackout occurred on Friday 27 May at 7:30 in the evening. This time 10 towers were blown up, all of them belonging to the Huinco, Callahuanca and Moyopampa plants and on the Pisco-Lima line. As before, the blackout was accompanied by other incidents. The Bayer plant was set on fire; the Miraflores office of the Credit Bank was hit by homemade bombs, as were the offices of SEDAPAL and other banks on La Victoria, Salamanca and Colonial Avenue. The new twist, however, was the hammer and sickle that Shining Path, no doubt, set ablaze on San Cosme and El Agustino hills.

The fourth blackout hit Lima on Thursday 21 July at 7:10 in the evening. Unlike the previous ones, no concurrent attacks were recorded. In any case, it was the most extensive of the four, and in some areas it took more than 24 hours to restore power.

Four blackouts, four widespread scares, four occasions on which panic took hold of the populace and four times that Lima realized that it is more vulnerable than even Shining Path would hope, especially if it is Thursday or Friday

The Men Who Can Do It All

The "Sinchis," the men who can do it all, are the most select corps in the Civil Guard. Their training, which takes place at the edge of the Chanchamayo Jungle, involves extremely tough discipline and unique tests of stamina and strength. The training of the Sinchis can be likened to that of the Army Commandos, of the FAP [Peruvian Air Force] or the Marines. Their basic objective is to combat the guerrillas or terrorists, and more specifically the guerrillas in the jungle, which is no easy task if we recall the examples of De la Puente and Bejar.

Given what was happening in Ayacucho, the government thought it best to send the Sinchis into the area. It has been the Interior Ministry's policy to use police forces instead of the army. Fears of a coup must be a factor in this. Their excellent training and their ability to traverse rough terrain supposedly make them better suited to combating Shining Path.

The Sinchis corps was founded in 1965 after guerrillas ambushed a Civil Guard patrol on 27 June 1965 at Yahuarina Pass, killing seven guardsmen. With U.S. technical assistance, the 48th Command took charge of the corps.

Its role in Ayacucho is controversial, however. Although to a certain extent it is pacifying the region, it has been widely condemned by the people there for the abuses that its members commit. These range from not paying for food to something that is an unconfirmed open secret, executions of innocent peasants.

The words of a Sinchi officer in November 1980 are quite illustrative: "No one must get out alive, because a live guerrilla is a victorious guerrilla." What we would have to ask the Sinchi is how he can tell who a guerrilla is.

Ayacucho is under a political-military government headed by Gen Clemente Noel, who is in charge of all police forces. Five institutions maintain law and order: the PIP, the Republican Guard (GR), the Civil Guard (GC), the army and the Marines, in addition to the air force and its helicopters.

There are two working methods: patrols and operations. The former consist of routine swings through areas in which an attack has generally taken place. On operations, in contrast, the men set out with precise instructions and targets, as well as, in many cases, information furnished by the intelligence services of one of the branches. Both the patrols and the operations can be undertaken jointly or by one corps alone. The rivalry between the Armed Forces and the police forces has given rise to serious problems at this juncture. This is no secret. The eagerness to carry off the laurels has led to disjointed action and, what is more, has hampered effectiveness.

The inexperience of certain police forces is another problem; the death of the three Marines in July is a pathetic example of this. They were part of a joint Civil Guard-Marine Corps patrol under the command of a Civil Guard lieutenant (he was the highest ranking officer). Their tragic death was due to his ignorance of the military tactics of siege and ambush.

The results so far show that although the effectiveness of the police has improved, it is still low. Shining Path's infiltration into villages has largely offset its effectiveness, and the inadequate training of regular guardsmen or soldiers is another adverse factor.

What Are Abimael Guzman's Thoughts? (1)

"Comrades, we have come to the conclusion that we are entering the third stage of contemporary Peruvian society. When we talked in the past about the two former stages of contemporary Peruvian society as part of the development of bureaucratic capitalism in the country, some people denounced and rejected our theories and our ideas, going so far as to disparagingly and insolently brand them infantile. What we are discussing today with a clear and precise view of history, in other words, our country entering a third stage, will also be misunderstood. No longer, however, can this idea simply be condemned as infantile, because history has shown that we have been right on many, many things, and people will have learned their lesson. Nevertheless, it will not be easy for them to accept and understand. Conclusive incidents and specific acts will be needed to hammer this into their hard heads, to explode their doubts and to force them to grasp the realities of our homeland.

"An understanding of the third stage is essential for our people to move forward. What does the third stage involve? What it involves is that the revolution, the armed people will begin to take power. On the other side, the reactionaries, with their 400 years of exploitation, on top of the previous exploitation that existed (comrades, we have to realize this clearly, 400 years of foreign oppression, a vile and servile system that is still in place, a State that although not solid is still powerful), the reactionaries will endeavor to halt us, to stand in the revolution's way. As we materialists well know, what exists refuses to die. The reactionaries exist and refuse to die; they are like an unburied cadaver, denying, protesting, resisting and attacking furiously and desperately. They don't want us to put them into the box, to bury them." ("We Are the Pioneers," mimeograph, from the First Military School, 19 April 1980)

What Are Abimael Guzman's Thoughts? (2)

"Our country today is in a developing revolutionary situation, a revolutionary situation that means that those 'on top' (the capitalists and the feudal landowners) can cannot continue to govern and administer as before and that those 'on the bottom' (the people, and their nucleus, the proletariat) do not want to continue living under the conditions in which they have been. Two paths have been taking shape as an expression of the class struggle in Peruvian society since the beginning of the century: the Democratic Path and the Bureaucratic Path, and they are now locked in a particularly intense struggle within this developing revolutionary situation.

"The bureaucratic path is the path of the exploiters, the capitalists and the feudal landowners under the command of American imperialism in particular. Its guiding force is the bureaucratic bourgeoisie, that is to say, the major landowners, the major bankers and the magnates of the big-spending bourgeoisie. They seek to conserve their control over our people by attempting to overcome the crisis besetting them and futilely endeavoring to stem the gains of the revolution in our country. Their main aims are to intensify bureaucratic capitalism and to give final shape to their corporative State. These aims were set forth when fascism was imposed on our country in October 1968 and they are still being pursued today under Belaunde's administration, which is merely a continuation of fascism, that is to say, a crude combination of the former bourgeois democracy and an overt terrorist dictatorship.

"Nevertheless, these reactionary plans merely aggravate the already intolerable hunger and poverty in which the masses are forced to live as a result of the intensification of bureaucratic capitalism in our country. It is precisely this situation, in which 'those on the bottom' are unwilling to keep on living as they have, that is the groundwork for expanding our people's struggles, for increasing their revolutionary activities, in other words, for developing their own path. We are talking, of course, about the democratic path. This is the path that our people are developing under the leadership of the proletariat and

through their Communist Party. It seeks to change the existing order through revolutionary violence in the form of the armed struggle from the countryside into the cities. This armed struggle will come to the fore amid the forthcoming peasant uprising. A prelude to this uprising is the renewed intense activity that has been going on within the peasant movement as part of the mounting grassroots protest against the reactionaries' economic and political programs.

"So then, far from having achieved the objectives that the reactionaries had set for themselves, these plans have merely further deepened the crisis besetting our country and compelled our people to struggle harder against the prevailing order. In other words, it has merely ripened the conditions for the Revolution of New Democracy by carrying the oppression and exploitation of the masses to the limit, thus compelling them to protest all the more. The struggle between the two paths has thus begun to be waged with weapons. Our country is full of firewood. One single spark could set the meadow ablaze, and that spark will not be long in coming.

"In this situation we must choose between the two paths. Either we help build the corporative State by going along with the reactionaries' plans and taking part in the elections that they are announcing as part of their crude forgery of the pro-forma bourgeois democracy that existed in our country and as a means of expanding fascism's social base and furthering their plans. Or else we help to expand the mounting grassroots protest that is paving the way for armed struggle in our country, thus clearing the way for the only path that will lead our people to liberation, sweeping away the feudal system, shattering imperialist domination once and for all and destroying the old semifeudal, semi-colonial State to build a State of New Democracy. The former choice serves the reactionaries. The latter serves the revolution.

"The working class and the Peruvian people have already opted for the democratic path. They are carrying out their decision every day by waging a mounting struggle for progress, which in our country means progress among the peasants. This struggle will demonstrate the people's invincible strength and their ability to throw off the yoke that has oppressed them, thus fulfilling the pending task of the democratic and national revolution in our country: to begin the armed struggle along the glorious road of besieging the cities from the countryside." (NUEVA DEMOCRACIA, Year One, No 3-4, newspaper of information and ideas, July 1981, price: 300 soles)

What Percovich Has to Say

At his meeting with the Association of Foreign Press Correspondents on 18 August, Interior Minister Luis Percovich Roca furnished the following information:

Shining Path's Ideologues

1. Abimael Guzman
2. Luis Kawata
3. Osman Morote
4. Hildebrando Perez
5. Antonio Diaz Martinez

Shining Path's Leaders

1. Abimael Guzman
2. Elizabeth Cardenas ("Betty")
3. Julio Casanova
4. Carlota Tello
5. Ondina Gonzalez
6. Juan Carlos Florian
7. Nelly Cardenas
8. Jose Kulich
9. Victor Quintanilla
10. Augusta de la Torre de Guzman
11. Julio Cesar Mezzich

The Death Toll Since May 1980

In all	1,580
Policemen	59
Armed Forces	5
Peasants	465
Shining Path	1,033

Organizations That Support Shining Path

1. The Peruvian Communist Party-Puka Llacta (operates in the La Oroya zone)
2. Tupac Amaru, a faction of the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] (operates in the Andahuaylas, Apurimac, Chuschi, La Mar, Cuzco, La Convencion zone)
3. Revolutionary Vanguard (political-military) (operates in Lima)
4. MIR/Peru (operates in the Otuzco and Huamachuco zone, in La Libertad and Cajabamba, in Cajamarca)

Shining Path members arrested, 2,119; wounded, 135; killed, 1,033

What Are Abimael Guzman's Thoughts? (3)

"In 21 months the party has begun and is firmly pursuing the only path towards our grassroots and national emancipation: the armed struggle, guerrilla warfare. This war has shined forth victorious in 2,900 actions that have jolted the entire country, every department except four, rocking the jungle, the coast and the highlands (mainly the latter), shaking the cities and especially the countryside. Thus, the highlands

and the countryside are the powerful, natural base for any workable revolutionary war in our country, and ours is merely a peasant war guided by the party. By making the countryside the armed stronghold of the revolution... (we will isolate) the reactionaries and their imperialist masters in the cities, where the proletariat and the masses will burn down the factories that are the source of their bloody claws, mainly through armed action as a complement to the struggle in the countryside, the very eye of the storm, and pave the way for the final assault on the cities and the total, thoroughgoing collapse of the reactionary order and the army that props it up." ("Let us Expand the Guerrilla War," mimeograph, March 1982)

The Parties and Shining Path

DEBATE invited the country's various political parties to outline their position regarding Shining Path. The following are the responses of the parties that accepted our invitation.

FRENATRACA [National Front of Workers and Peasants]

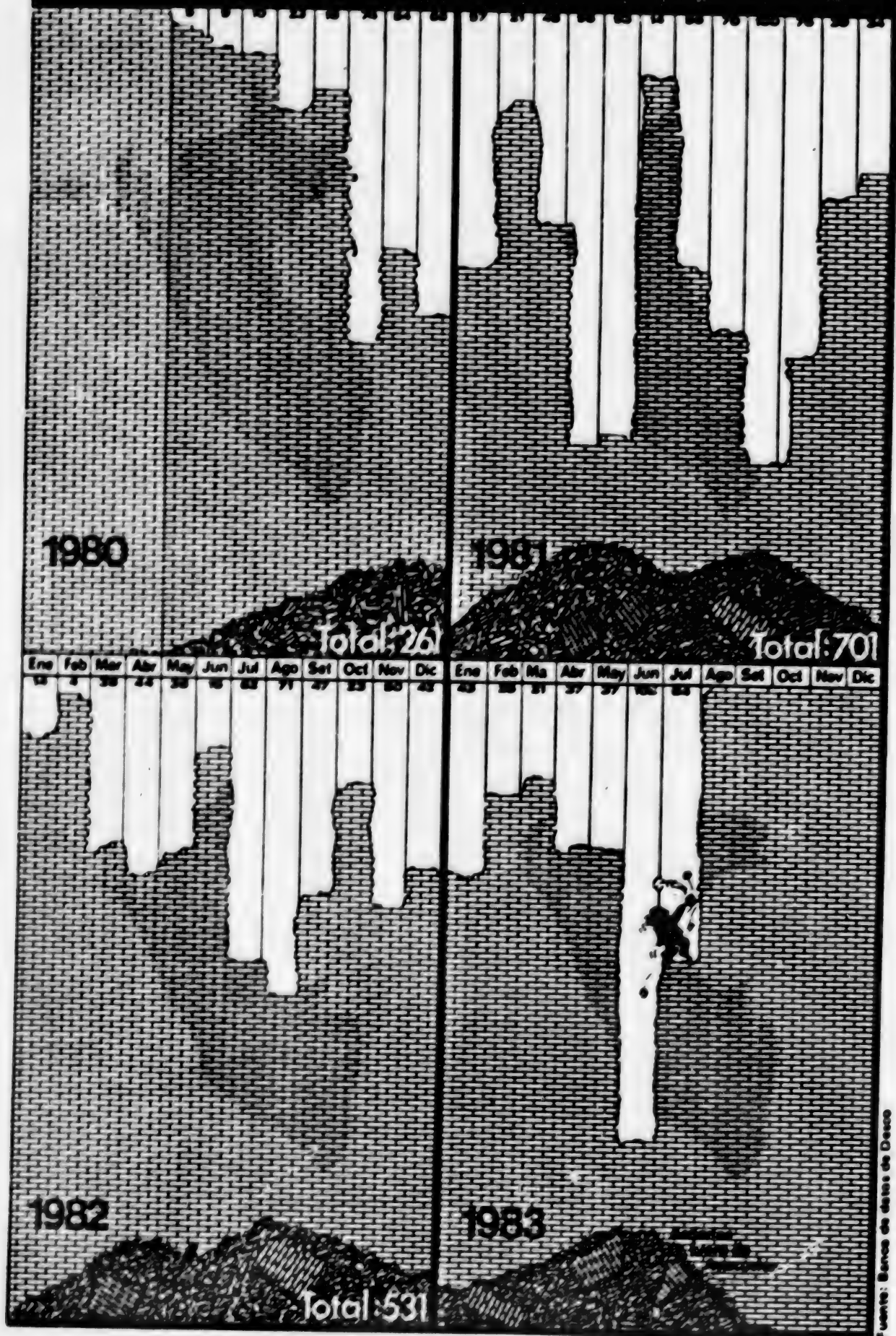
FRENATRACA feels that the conditions in Ayacucho and other Andean departments clearly illustrate the severe crisis and total failure of the type of society and State that were established by the conquest and that the republic has merely perpetuated in essence. FRENATRACA thus believes that Shining Path is basically one of the most dangerous symptoms of this crisis, the deep-seated causes of which must be duly analyzed so that it can be overcome once and for all. FRENATRACA's judgment is that these deep-seated causes include the centralized system, the antinational mentality and the injustice of the social order that has prevailed in our country from the conquest to the present. All of this is responsible for the longstanding backwardness, disenfranchisement and lack of understanding in which Ayacucho has lived, particularly under the entire republic. The proof of this is that today Ayacucho is one of the departments with the lowest per-capita income, the smallest gross output and the lowest level of development. At the same time, its illiteracy rate is among the highest, and its lack of social and cultural integration is among the most severe. Such a bleak situation readily gives rise to resentment, and thus young people in particular have embraced the most belligerent and direct tactical version of Marxist ideology as the sole answer that they see as genuinely pragmatic.

A comprehensive policy should thus be devised and pursued to deal with all these situations by first and foremost attacking their underlying causes. Roger Caceres V., president

MBH

I would like to clarify certain points before offering an opinion on terrorism.

ACCIONES SENDERISTAS



A Widespread Phenomenon. We live in an era of worldwide terrorism. Like any other ideological, political, artistic or literary trend, it has spread to our country as well. It is an epidemic, and epidemics can in one way or another be controlled.

The Abnormality of Terrorism in Peru. Our country has not been and is not suited to terror. Its practice is repugnant to Peruvians. Terrorism is not of necessity and inevitably linked to a country in which there is exploitation, backwardness and hunger. It has been practiced in wealthy countries like Germany or Italy and in poor countries such as those in Asia, Africa and our Americas. And there are very poor countries, such as Haiti, in which terrorism has not existed and does not exist.

It has a social backdrop, but the motivations are individual and psychological. A terrorist is an advocate of violence for the sake of violence. It is a creed that takes root in individual minds rather than in the discontent of the masses. The masses tend towards group political, union or protest actions. Like the anarchists of the 19th century, terrorists are extremists of individualism. They are children of Bakunin more than of Marx.

Terrorism Solves Nothing and Complicates Everything. It has no political and social program. It lacks of specific view of the world and has a mystical, nebulous view of the society that it plans to build. What is more, it is not interested as much in building the future as destroying the present.

In Peru the Phenomenon of Shining Path Has Not Gotten Away from the "Mental Colonialism" That Haya de la Torre Described. It began as an exotic transplant of Maoism when this movement was in decline. After Mao passed away and China altered its political line, the Senderistas launched a furious campaign of graffiti and dogs hanging from poles. Against their domestic adversaries? Against Yankee imperialism? No. Against Dong Zhao Ping and in support of the people on trial in Shanghai. Shining Path thus defined itself as an overseas appendage of the factional strife within the Chinese Communist Party. They later shifted to an Andean-Marxist fundamentalism. They became like "mini-Khomeinis." To quote Haya, they "were always looking for a model that will make it unnecessary to think for ourselves," but while spilling enormous amounts of blood, our own and that of others.

Let's talk a bit about solutions.

An in-depth social reform of our unjust and anachronistic structures would, of course, reduce the potential for terrorism. But this should not undermine a vigorous and effective defense of the democratic order. When a house is burning down because of a short circuit, you can't wait around to fix its electrical system. That has to be done eventually, but the urgent thing is to put out the fire.

I do not believe that the death penalty is effective, although we have to recognize that the terrorists themselves have already established it in Peru. There are modern, proven antiterrorist techniques that are not based on the death penalty. Our systems of defense have shown themselves to be pathetically inadequate. We urgently need to study and adopt the antiterrorist tactics that have proven effective in the advanced countries, just as we learn military, surgical or engineering methods there. Andres Townsend E.

Peruvian Communist Party (PCP). At the recent meetings of its Central Committee, our party has reiterated that in light of its forecast of the direction that events will take as a result of the intensification of the class struggle and the violence that is inherent in the system of imperialist oligarchical domination, the armed struggle will, on principle, be the predominant means by which the working class and the exploited masses will gain power. This does not, of course, rule out the use of other, nonviolent forms of struggle.

Thus, although we are in agreement with other forces that the armed struggle will be the predominant method of attaining power, we disagree with the tactics and the ideological stands that groups like "Shining Path" espouse in pursuit of their sectarian, clannish, absurd line, which is an enemy of real socialism and, moreover, with their forms and methods, which at odds with the struggle of the masses.

Our major disagreement with Shining Path has to do with the use of terrorism as a political weapon. As Lenin rightly contended, terrorism only serves the purposes of the reactionaries and helps the Right, which takes advantage of the ruinous effects of terrorism and the condemnation that they bring on, to portray itself as the seemingly innocent victim of a violence that the Right actually is responsible for because of its repressive policies of exploitation. This is the case at present in our country with the AP-Popular Christian Party administration, which is undemocratic, antinational and a cause of hunger among the people.

Such violence cannot be countered, as Shining Path is doing, with isolated terrorist acts, but instead with a wide-ranging alliance of forces and masses that will enable us to defeat them in every sphere.

One of the lessons of history is that terrorist action has never brought victory and that, on the contrary, the proper use of the various forms of struggle, including armed struggle, as was the case in Cuba, Vietnam, Nicaragua and today in El Salvador, has always ended in triumph. Peruvian Communist Party, Central Committee

PCR

This is, above all, a political and social phenomenon and is not exclusively a matter for the police. The crisis in our country, which neoliberalism has aggravated, is the cause of various forms of violence, including

terrorism. A structural crisis requires structural solutions. We should also point out that there are various forms of institutionalized violence. One is hunger and unemployment, while transnational corporations whisk away the profits. Another is "bossist" methods in the various production and social spheres, including the bureaucracy, where high-handedness and influence are more important than rights. In addition to these there is terrorist violence. Strictly speaking, there are two kinds: State terrorism and anarchist terrorism. Regardless of which came first, we know which has more power, which is the basis for determining the real threat that it poses to society. In this context, we can define Shining Path precisely. It is a small political organization isolated from the the major grassroots mobilizations of the last 20 years, which United Left has symbolized. It has an authoritarian program for socialism and a dogmatic and sectarian concept of the revolution, regarding as "counterrevolutionary" the economic gains that peasants have made in becoming middle-class and wealthy. It does not represent a nationwide, grassroots movement, nor does it have a program for government. But it has managed to play upon the social upheaval in Ayacucho with a peculiar form of guerrilla warfare, and the people there are now caught between two types of terrorism while suffering crushing poverty. Our differences with Shining Path are political; they have nothing to do with the police. Therefore, we demand political solutions. But these solutions cannot be developed in isolation from the national context. The recent communique from the army and the statements by General Briceno (alluding to another "conspiracy," describing communism as an "enemy" and hurling unfounded charges, without naming names, at former generals, journalists and forces opposing the government) mark a shift in the treatment of Shining Path as a political phenomenon. First, from 1980 to late 1982 the Civil Guard withdrew and allowed Shining Path to operate, thus creating a nationwide climate. Second, from the time that the Armed Forces intervened until Briceno's remarks, the "dirty war" strategy, which had previously been pursued in Vietnam, Argentina and now in El Salvador and Guatemala, was implemented in Ayacucho, Apurimac and Huancavelica. Third, with Briceno's communique the methods applied in Ayacucho became nationwide, in connection with the immediate political goal of isolating forces in the municipal elections. The longer-term aim, however, is that a weakened civilian government will give way to a military government or to another civilian regime imposed by the military, while the country becomes "Argentina-ized." This is how the government is dealing with Shining Path politically. It is allowing it to survive and waging a "long-term war" against it, sparring with it while attacking the rising grassroots movement. Is it just sparring or military incompetence? The former seems more likely. Therefore, we demand a different policy. A democratic and national solution that affirms political pluralism, decentralizes by forming regional governments and replaces neoliberal economic policies with nationalist policies, in short, either a rectification or a democratic replacement of the current government. This is an emergency political demand. Fascism threatens to gobble up Peruvian society. It must be cut short. The pressing need of the moment is to meet all forms of terrorism head on and to implement democratic and patriotic solutions. Manuel Dammert Ego A., secretary general

PADIN

PADIN has already publicly stated its position on terrorism and subversion, which are apparently closely linked, encouraged and/or practiced by Shining Path, according to government assertions. In various press releases we have voiced our total opposition to all forms of violence, because violence is no answer to the grave economic and social problems plaguing the country; on the contrary, it aggravates them. At the conference staged at the CAEM [Center of Advanced Military Studies] we also made known our complete opposition to the vague official statements that rashly sought to link the subversive acts with a desire in the military for a coup and to the unproven insinuations that there was outside involvement in such subversion.

We also emphatically assert that it is an undeniable fact that violence only begets violence and that it is extremely urgent to ascertain the causes of subversion and the concomitant terrorism so that they can be rooted out to prevent further bloodshed on both sides (the guerrillas and the forces of repression).

We contend that in Peru the terrorism-subversion phenomenon has its roots in the injustice, exploitation, abandonment and neglect in which thousands of Peruvians live in vast areas out of the nation's mainstream. Under the current administration, however, this is compounded by corruption at all levels, which prompts just protests. And when these protests are not heeded and when those stealing from the public coffers are not punished, violence erupts in the form of urban terrorism.

Those who are familiar with the stark reality of the other Peru, the real Peru, know perfectly well that despair, hunger, poverty and abuses cause men to resort to violence when civilization, the law and justice do not exist, in a bid to enforce their own law in the face of such a terrible situation. Engels said: "Social forces operate the same way as the forces of nature, blindly, violently and destructively, when we do not understand them and learn to live with them."

Just as in 1965, however, this administration is stubbornly and blindly ignoring that this is an ideological movement with a political and military organization and just as it previously called them "rustlers," it now calls them "criminals," "hold-up men" and "gangsters." These rash assertions are even more serious because they come from the president of the republic, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces and the police forces. He immediately contradicts himself, however, by using the Armed Forces, albeit in limited fashion, inasmuch as it is the mission of the police forces, not the Armed Forces, to prevent and fight crime under Article 277 of the constitution, which this administration is in effect violating.

All that it is achieving by doing this (with who knows what shady designs) is to strength subversion and terrorism, discredit the Armed Forces and police and seriously jeopardize the future of Peru,

whose economy is being bled dry. Our sovereignty is being weakened at an extremely rapid rate and we are being plunged into the most awful confusion and chaos that the country has experienced in its history as a republic since 1879, when Chile invaded to prostrate us for 100 years. Fortunately, Peru got to its feet again within 20 years, but if the situation persists, we fear that Peru could collapse once again, and this time for good. This is the great challenge facing the ruling parties that are cohorts in this most disreputable of Pardo-like dictatorships. It is also, however, a challenge for the opposition parties and the people who are masters of their own fate, because they must put an end to this chaos by making use of the democratic procedures that the constitution provides for, before the government's insanity, wrongheadedness and capitulation trigger a frightful and bloody civil war.

We conclude by asserting that the problem of Shining Path in our country is a social and economic problem, not a political, military or police one.

As long as the authorities attack the effects and fail to overcome the causes, terror, subversion and Shining Path will never be eradicated.
Miguel Angel Mufarech, secretary general

PDC [Christian Democrat Party]

The fundamental right of human beings, the right to life, is being violated on a mounting scale in our homeland. While prominent figures and, in particular, the country's leaders remain indifferent, Peru wallows in immorality, disorder, poverty and death. These developments threaten to destroy essential values, even our young people's faith in the prevalence of truth, justice, freedom, respect for the dignity of our citizens, equality among Peruvians, the universal right to education, to work, to a secure life, in brief, the crushing of their hopes in a future that will lend meaning to their lives.

Our stand is based on a rejection of all forms of illegitimate violence, especially violence that takes human life. We thus denounce the acts of war, terrorism and "executions" that Shining Path has engaged in under the guise of ideologies that hold life in high regard. It has arrogated the "right" to kill, selectively in the case of assassination and indiscriminately when it hurls bombs or mows down peasant farmers in their districts.

We acknowledge the government's right and duty to protect and defend itself, but we also reject acts of official violence, when the government cracks down, almost without restraints, and reacts with little or no regard for the human rights of the people, who are the very source of authority, which in these instances is being exercised poorly.

We must all meet the historic challenge of giving national meaning to the country's pacification. We must make ready to rectify mistakes, set aside individual interests no matter how legitimate they might be, and put an end to blameworthy noninvolvement, the fear of making a commitment, misunderstanding and reprisals. We must at last begin the great crusade for national pacification in an attempt to achieve a political cease-fire. This cannot be accomplished merely by a call for a dialog; we should also, for example, set up a Representative National Commission made up of institutions and individuals in which the country recognizes its moral reserves.

The 25th National Plenary Meeting of the Christian Democrat Party has resolved to submit this appeal to the presidents of the branches of government, to the nation's attorney general, to our other government institutions, to political parties, to labor and professional groups and to well-known figures. Furthermore, it has asked the cardinal primate of the Church and Peru's archbishops and bishops to attempt, for the sake of peace and with the moral authority that the nation acknowledges is theirs, to establish the contacts necessary for setting up a top-level National Pacification Commission. Carlos Blancas B., president

PPC [Popular Christian Party]

Terrorism, which can be defined as the use of terror to achieve given goals, has been making its evil presence felt in Peru.

The situation has been complicated by the use of anonymous, surprise attacks, by the government's indecisiveness, by the fact that law enforcement agencies lack the resources and training to keep it under control, and by the irresponsible reporting of certain printed media, which have not hesitated to exaggerate the phenomenon for sales purposes. All of this is compounded by existing social problems, which could be a fertile breeding ground for those who, in their hopelessness and desperation, see violence and destruction as the only solution.

Even though terrorism might be inspired by a doctrine, it unquestionably constitutes common crime, inasmuch as in shattering the social, political and legal order, terrorists do not think twice about committing crimes to achieve their goals. They resort to cold-blooded murder, the destruction of public and private property, breaching the peace, sowing panic and anguish and, in general, any imaginable means at their disposal. Terrorism is thus an inhuman and irrational activity.

Hence, it is the responsibility of all Peruvians to stand up to the tiny group of fanatics who are engaged in terrorist actions. It must not be left solely up to the government, which does, however, bear the major responsibility.

We urgently need more decisive policies as well as tactics such as those employed, for example, by the Bundeskriminalamt in West Germany, which is the government agency in charge of uncovering and battling terrorism. But this must be complemented by the action of public opinion, the press, political parties, institutions and, in general, all Peruvians, because we want to preserve the system and because we realize that the only option open to our country is the path of law and respect for the will of the people, who have an inalienable right to live in a free democracy. Ernesto Blume Fortini, on behalf of the party's president

PSR [Revolutionary Socialist Party]

The Revolutionary Socialist Party is a National Left party that espouses socialism as the foundation of a democratic, nationalist program based on solidarity, social justice, the socialization of the means of production and the full exercise of sovereignty, against imperialism and for solidarity with all peoples of the world and the Latin American Continental Union. It therefore argues that a revolutionary, grassroots move towards socialism can be made only from the people and with the people.

In light of this, the PSR feels that it is a revolutionary obligation to take a stand regarding Shining Path. In the first place, no form of struggle outside the mass movement helps the revolution and socialism. Secondly, the objective results of Shining Path's actions strengthen reactionary and McCarthyist positions in Peru and in this sense play a fundamentally counterrevolutionary role. Thirdly, no one can countenance crimes such as murder as revolutionary practices, especially when the victims are humble farm workers, miners or unarmed guards who in no way represent the power of the bourgeoisie.

Our condemnation is not just moral. Ours is fundamentally a political denunciation that we are voicing with the same strength with which we combat the Right, because Shining Path undeniably destroys and provokes without offering a revolutionary alternative and without any possibility of taking power and setting up a people's government. It is therefore an effective complement to the political action of the Peruvian Right, regardless of how hard it tries to portray itself as leftwing.

Nevertheless, we on the Left must engage in earnest self-criticism and admit that the Left as a whole is partly responsible for the growth of Shining Path and the fact that it occupies and controls political space today. This is because we did not take a firm ideological and political stand against Shining Path's grave deviation when it first appeared within the university movement.

The PSR also feels that the root of the problem lies in the longstanding neglect of the region, the government's indifference and the desperation of the people there, which Shining Path has taken advantage of to implement its ideas and plans of action. The region is thus beset by a grave political crisis that is becoming nationwide, a crisis that must be

tackled politically as the groundwork for an overall solution. We feel that a special agency must be created to govern the area, in view of the emergency social and economic situation there. This agency would be given special powers and would take charge of the region's development, coordinate the activities of the various government institutions and keep in contact with the central government. It would naturally have to be given a large enough budget. It would be up to this powerful new agency to seek peace, progress and democracy, which all of the people of Ayacucho long for.

Lastly, the PSR contends that Shining Path and United Left are completely incompatible, because they have essentially different, mutually exclusive aims. Thus, Shining Path focuses on provoking a fascist escapade, while United Left defends the democracy that the Peruvian people themselves have built. This also explains why Shining Path has murdered grassroots leaders with ties to United Left. There is no similarity or relationship between United Left and Shining Path either in their programs, their ties with the masses or their methods of struggle. The Peruvian people's revolution, which will lead to socialism, full-fledged democracy, freedom and justice, will be accomplished through United Left, never through Shining Path.

Of course nothing that the PSR has stated in putting ideological and political distance between itself and Shining Path can justify the McCarthyist tactics and indiscriminate repression with which President Belaunde's administration has endeavored to meet the challenge of Shining Path. On the contrary, the PSR feels that the government's clumsy and incorrect handling of the matter, as well as the economic crisis besetting the country (a crisis for which it is mainly responsible), are aggravating the social and political crisis and thus jeopardizing the stability of the democratic gains that the people have made. Enrique Bernales B., secretary general

POMR-PST [Revolutionary Marxist Workers Party-Socialist Workers Party]

Those of us who describe ourselves as Leninist-Trotskyites disagree with and, therefore, do not support the insurrection of Shining Path, for the following reasons:

a) Peru is a backward capitalist country in which capitalist social and production relations predominate. In Peru, the proletariat is the main producing class and the revolutionary class par excellence. The anti-imperialist and antibourgeois revolution will be led by the proletariat, whose allies will be the impoverished peasants and the urban petty bourgeoisie. From its outset it will be a proletarian, not a "peasant" revolution. Hence, the impoverished peasants will be an ally of the proletariat, not the principal leader of the revolution.

In contrast, Shining Path's uprising is based on the theory of a prolonged war from the countryside against the city. The basis of this theory

is that because the country is semifeudal, the fundamental social relations are shaped in the countryside, with the peasants as the most important social class.

b) The proletariat's methods of struggle are: work stoppages, strikes, rallies, general insurrectional strikes and civil war. It can also take part in elections and serve in the bourgeois congress if it deems this advisable. Since 1977 it has sought to pave the way for "dual authority," one of whose manifestations has been the formation of grassroots defense fronts and assemblies. Therefore, the proletariat might resort to guerrilla warfare in the course of its revolutionary mobilization.

c) The divorce between the countryside and the city in Peru, that is to say, between the peasants and the proletariat, explains the nature of Shining Path's uprising, its necessary reliance on backward peasant regions and the terrible excesses of its isolated terrorist acts during the stage of armed propaganda in its attempt to liberate the peasant zones that are behind it. Because of Shining Path's isolation from the cities, from the urban masses and from their methods of struggle, the forces of repression are able to crack down indiscriminately under the theory of counterinsurgency.

d) Inasmuch as Shining Path is a political organization that is rising up against the bourgeois State, even though its methods are mistaken and inimical to the proletariat's interests, socialists must not call for a crackdown against it, nor vote for military and police funding, defending it, instead, against excessive repression. Ricardo Napuri, secretary general

UDP [Popular Democratic Union]

The "Communist Party of Peru along the Shining Path of Jose Carlos Mariategui" is a political and military organization of undeniable importance in the country's developing political situation. It is marked by dogmatic adherence to Marxism-Leninism-Maoism, by an undeniable personality cult to its leader and by a clear-cut sectarianism in its political activities.

This organization has charted and is pursuing a strategy of grassroots warfare consisting solely of military action and utilizing terrorist methods to achieve its ends.

Shining Path is, in a way, one of the avenues by which certain segments of the Peruvian people, in particular the poorest of the poor, are expressing the despair that they feel over their bleak prospects. In an undeniably distorted way it channels the social violence that exists in our country, and its continued existence and growth are clearly related to the absence of a Democratic and Popular National Program that can tackle the republic's grave crisis.

Even though it is a fledgling organization with internal constraints, United Left bears part of the responsibility for the emergence of this group and, at the same time, must meet the challenge of putting together the aforementioned National Program.

Shining Path's activities are designed to cause a political polarization vis-a-vis the Armed Forces and further the country's militaristic trend, on which the AP-PPC administration relies to pursue its ruinous economic policy. Lacking a policy for the masses and scorning the democratic gains that the grassroots struggle has achieved, Shining Path is not a valid alternative in our country, even if today it represents a channel for the anguish and social violence that we spoke of previously.

The main cause of the Shining Path phenomenon is the harsh economic, political and social oppression that the ruling classes have practiced and are still practicing against most of the Peruvian people. In particular, the policies of the AP-PPC administration and the severe crisis into which they have plunged the country are fertile soil for Shining Path. Inasmuch as the situation might boil down to a choice between fascism and Shining Path, in which the former would clearly have the advantage, the only solution is for the Left to forge a genuine alliance of all the social forces that have been battered by the parties in power and by imperialism. Javier Diez Canseco, secretary general

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